PAUL R. MYERS
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL LIV JANUARY 1, 1976 NO. 1

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THROUGH THE COMING YEAR

Our Father, thro' the coming year
We know not what shall be;
But we would leave without a fear
Its ord'ring all to Thee.

It may be we shall toil in vain
For what the world holds fair;
And all the good we tho't to gain,
Deceive and prove but care.

It may be it shall darkly blend
Our love with anxious fears,
And snatch away the valued friend,
The tried of many years.

But calmly, Lord, on Thee we rest;
No fears our trust shall move;
Thou knowest what for each is best,
And Thou art perfect Love.

Anonymous

MODERATION

When the New Year dawns, we will see people welcome it many different ways. There will be some at each of the two extremes. On one hand, we will see those who will greet the New Year with noise, merriment, drunkenness and revelry. On the other hand, we will see those who will take absolutely no note of the change of years, beyond writing the new year's date. For the former, the new year will dawn as they sluggishly try to recover from their drunken stupor. For the latter, there will not even be a renewed resolution to live a more godly life. These extremes illustrate the need for moderation in the activities of this life. Christians can neither celebrate like the world, nor can they ignore the activities of the world.

There are extremes, with many graduations in-between, in almost every activity in this life, not only in the celebration of holidays. We can easily see the extremes in political life, not only in the celebration of holidays. We can easily see the extremes in political belief, economic standing, social prestige and religious preference. We see extremes in the temperment and personality of people.

In the Church, we find those who with great enthusiasm serve the Lord for awhile. Then, within a short time, they turn against their former efforts, often leaving the Church altogether for new activities which now demand their enthusiasm. They are unstable; and prove, in the end, to be more harm than help to the Cause of Christ. In the end it is the member, who is steadfast though not spectacular, who perseveres and sees God's blessings showered on His People.

The Apostle Paul admonishes, "Let your moderation be known unto all

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

men." Phil. 4:5a. Another word for "moderation" is "temperance." Temperance is total abstinence from all things, harmful, and the moderate use of those things which are good. Temperance applies to all areas of our lives; it means being in control of one's self all the time. The drunk is not in control of himself. But many others, who do not use intoxicating drinks, also are not in control of themselves for they lack moderation. Whether it is in eating, sleeping, exercise, temperamentalness or in being overly emotional, we must be moderate.

There ever remains a danger in the Church that moderation will be lacking. Either adherance to form without Spiritual direction on one hand will dominate or a pseudo-spirituality without an outward form or discipline will be in vogue. Jesus warned the Pharisees, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." Matt. 23:23. The Pharisees were condemned because their form was empty. They had even made their own laws and traditions that negated God's Law. They were an unloving, unmerciful group of formalists. But just as some may go to extremes concerning form; there are as many who go to the opposite extreme of throwing away all form. Jesus did not castigate the Pharisees for keeping the old forms but for having made these forms empty. Their forms lacked the love, judgment, mercy and faith that God had intended to be displayed by these forms. The Pharisees lacked moderation. Their counterparts also lacked moderation.

This same tension, yet, exists in the Church today. There is always the danger of a lack of balance. Spiritual lessons are illustrated for us in the forms given to us through the ordinances of the Church. These Spiritual lessons give the forms life. But it is the practise of the forms that bring the Spiritual lessons down to us. Whether it is the ordinances, the dress or the Order of the Church, we need to know the Biblical truth behind its practice. Paul admonishes Timothy, among other things, to ". . .exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." II Tim. 4:2. He was to have loving patience with the people he dealt with. He was, also with the same degree of intensity, to preach doctrine. Both were needful in his ministry; and both are needful in the Church today. We can not throw away the old Landmarks, just because they are old and out of style, they have served well to illustrate the deeper matters of the Spirit. It is by following in these old Pathways that we continue the witness of the Church concerning Christian love, judgment, mercy and faith. The form without Spirit is dead; likewise the Spirit is useless when unchanneled by form.

We can see extremes in nearly every activity around us. But the message of God's Word is, to be moderate. The Spirit and the form must be welded so firmly together that we do not go to either extreme.

QUEEN ESTHER'S GREAT COURAGE

Part 6

A surprising scene occurs in this chapter. When satan put it into the heart of Haman to plan a way for Mordecai's death, God put it into the heart of the King to bring about a way to honor Mordecai.

Verse 1 reads, "On that night could not the king sleep . . ." His sleep fled away. The more he tried to sleep; it as a shadow fled away from him. In his sleepless hours, his thoughts were scattered until he thought of the record of his reign. He had the record of the chronicles read to him. God was still working in favor of his people, the Jews. So, God put it in his heart to have the records read rather than to have music or song to compose him for rest. God always works in mysterious ways.

The servant, perhaps by chance, opened to the place which concerned Mordecai. In this certain place it was found written that Mordecai had discovered a plot against the life of the King, which prevented its execution. It is found in Esther 2:21-23. (A design was made against the King by two of his servants, who sought to lay hands on him, not only to make him a prisoner but to take his life. Mordecai knew of their treason and, through Esther, presented it to the King. By this, Mordecai became one of the King's favorites. The traitors were hanged.) This whole matter was reported in the King's journal.

The King inquired, "What honor and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this?" The King's servant told him that there was nothing done to reward Mordecai for this loyal service. Mordecai continued at his place of duty at the king's gate, humble and modest. Yet, God had a greater reward for him. But the proud and vicious Haman had the King's attention. Mordecai was doomed to destruction with all the Jews, even though he deserved some honor.

In the morning as the people began to go about their duties, Haman was so impatient to get Mordecai hanged that he came to the court early, before any other business, to get a warrant signed by the King for Mordecai's execution and to get the first word with the King. This would complete his satisfaction, for he had the gallows all ready for the hanging of Mordecai.

But the King's mind and desires were turned toward a different concept. His great desire was to have Mordecai honored because of the great and loyal service he rendered. In Esther 6:4, ". . .the king said Who is in the court?" It was told him that Haman was in the court. Verse 5, "Let him come in," commanded the King. The King knew nothing of the quarrel Haman had with Mordecai; yet Haman was the best fitted man to direct and dispense the King's favor.

Haman came in, proud of the honor being done him by being admitted

into the king's chamber. Haman, so exalted, thought he had the fairest opportunity he could wish to solicit against Mordecai. But the King's heart and desire were as full as Haman's. It was fitting that the King speak first. The King asked Haman how he should express his favor to one, whom he had marked as a favorite. Verse 6 says, "What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor?" Haman's first thoughts were that he was the King's favorite prince. Haman thought he could carve out the honor he desired and do it very liberally.

Haman was confounded by a positive order that he should go immediately and put all this honor on Mordecai, the Jew. The King hadn't said, as Haman expected, "Thou art the man." He was very disappointed, but, yet, he had to do all that the king said was to be done. He had to do it, himself, to Mordecai, the Jew, the very man that he hated.

Haman dared not to dispute or even so much as seem to dislike the King's orders, but with the greatest reluctance he did it to Mordecai. The apparel was brought, Mordecai was dressed up, seated on the King's horse and was led through the City, recognized as the King's favorite.

Through all this advancement, Mordecai was not puffed up but came again to the king's gate and took his place of duty as before. But, Poor Haman! How he was cast down with disappointment. He brought honor to such a man as Mordecai, at a time, when he had hoped to have him hanged. When Haman told Zeresh, his wife, she told him his doom. Verse 13, "If Mordecai be of the seed of the Jews before whom thou hast begun to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shalt surely fall before him." Haman was called to the banquet that Esther, the Queen, had prepared.

The Jews are a holy people, a praying people, in covenant with God. They are a people whom the Lord has blessed; therefore, let not their enemies expect to triumph over them.

- To be continued

Brother Clarence R. Gehr
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

JUST A LOT OF RACKET

On New Year's Eve, it is common to hear a lot of racket. People celebrate the arrival of the new year in various ways; many, certainly, are not pleasing to God. The noise and commotion, the drinking and carousing do anything but help them begin the year with the Lord. Many are in such a drunken stupor that they cannot remember when the year began.

For the Christian, there are ways to note the arrival of a new year in a

God-pleasing way. It can be a time of fellowship with friends. It can be a quiet time before the Lord, thinking of areas of your life needing improvement. Some wish to make resolutions, which are goals for self-improvement. Some look at a new year as a clean page which ought to be filled with good deeds and thoughts.

It is good to resolve to be more kind and helpful. It is good to not be proud or envious. You might resolve to be more humble and more contented with what you have. You might resolve, also, to be more generous to those in need. Whatever quality you feel needs improvement should be considered; but there is one thing you need to make all of these worthwhile.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal." I Cor. 13:1. Without charity, or love, you are only as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal - just a lot of racket! No matter how wonderful your speech is, it means nothing without love. It is like a child pounding on a pan; it is only noise.

A cymbal is used to make a ringing sound; and is of value only when used with musical instruments. Alone, it is just a lot of racket. We may be able to express good thoughts, to do many good works, or even to teach the Word of God with zeal; but without love for others, this, too, seems like a lot of racket. Jesus presented the truth from a heart of love; and the common people heard Him gladly. The Pharisees rejected Christ because they did not love and they did not want to give up their religious traditions and high social position. They were like the cymbal, alone - just a lot of racket. They were "out of tune" because they didn't have God's love in their hearts; neither, did they want it.

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph. 3:17-19. Love is basic to our Christian walk. Without it, we can't do anything as it, truly, should be done. Love is necessary to our well-being, physically, as well as spiritually. Life would be hopeless and aimless without salvation, which God provided through Christ because He loves us.

We must be ". . .rooted and grounded in love;" for love is the motivating power from God. Love gives, even to those who deserve it the least (that's us!). Love is kind, even to those who least deserve kindness (that's us, again!). Love keeps the Golden Rule, even when it seems that only evil is returned for good. Love is considerate of others' needs, just as God is of ours. Our love for Christ moves us to hold up Christ as the answer to every need. Christ supplies our needs, especially salvation, because He loves us!

If Jesus spoke of love, yet, did nothing to show it; it would not mean

anything. But, He does love and He shows it! If there is any one resolution we should make; it is to ask God to so fill us with love that we can give it to others. A sinner will not respond to any less. One new in the faith needs our love and prayerful concern, also. We need the love of Christ within, so we can truly be of help to others.

Don't let your life be just a lot of racket. Begin this new year of 1976 with God. Let His love dwell in you, so all you do will be worth something. You will find new joy and peace. Others will appreciate your attitude and disposition. You will be a new person from the heart out, because when you are touched by God's love, you can't remain the same. His love will bring out the best in you and help you to bring out the best in others. Resolve now to let His love make your life what it should be, not just a lot of racket!

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

PROPHECY AND FULFILLMENT

Prophecy: Ex. 16:18, And when they did mete it with an omer, he that gathered much had nothing over, and he that gathered little had no lack; they gathered every man according to his eating.

Fulfillment: II Cor. 8:15, As it is written, He that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack.

Prophecy: Isa. 55:10-11, or as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater; So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Fulfillment: II Cor. 9:9-10, (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness.)

Prophecy: Gen. 12:3, And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Fulfillment: Gal. 3:8, And the scripture, forseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

Prophecy: Deut. 27:26, Cursed be he that confirmeth not all the words of this law to do them. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Fulfillment: Gal. 3:10, For as many as are of the works of the law are

under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.

Prophecy: Deut. 21:23, His body shall not remain all night upon the tree, but thou shalt in any wise bury him that day; (for he that is hanged is accursed of God;) that thy land be not defiled, which the Lord thy God giveth thee for an inheritance.

Fulfillment: Gal. 3:13, Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.

Prophecy: Isa. 54:1, Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child; for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.

Fulfillment: Gal. 4:26-27, But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not; for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband.

Prophecy: Deut. 25:4, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn.

Fulfillment: I Tim. 5:18, For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

Prophecy: Psalms 110:4, The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Fulfillment: Heb. 7:21, (For those priests were made without an oath; but this with an oath by him that said unto him, The Lord sware and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec:)

Prophecy: Jer. 31:31-32, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah; Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord.

Fulfillment: Heb. 8:7-8, For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

- Brother W. E. Bashor
867 Lorna Dr., Glen Ellen, Calif. 95442

No matter how long you nurse a grudge, it won't get better.

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Part 29

"Answered Prayers" is an inexhaustable subject. Man can not fathom the length, heighth, depth and width of God's ability to answer prayers. He is more than able to answer any prayer. One thing certain, that when we pray to God, we should let Him answer them. We should not try to answer our own prayers, unless the Holy Spirit leads us that way.

Shall we take a container and try to make a passage through the Red Sea by bailing out the water? Shall we push at the walls of Jericho while marching around them? No! Our "Red Seas" and "Jericho Walls" will be overcome when we pray and God takes note of our prayers and answers them. He is abundantly able.

We are commanded to "Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalms 37:5. "If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it." John 14:14.

We do find instances in the Bible where man took his own way and ended either in trouble or grievously out of God's will.

Abraham asked God for a son. Then he tried to help answer his own prayer by taking Hagar to be his wife, hearkening to the voice of Sarah, rather than to the voice of God. How terrible, when we meddle with the plans of God by trying to answer our own prayers! To this day, the Arabs claim descent from Ishmael, who came from Abraham's unholy alliance; and they continue to vex the Jews who are descended from Isaac.

Jacob prayed to be delivered from the hand of his brother Esau. Then he set out to appease him with goats and ewes and rams and camels, with kine and bulls and asses. Running ahead of God, he was trying to answer his own prayer.

If we stood at our mail box hanging on to the corner of a letter, how long would it be before we received an answer? Our prayers should be between us and God alone. If we spread our needs before men, we will get only what man can do. If we pray to God alone, we will get ". . .exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think." We will get what God can do.

We pray vertically - to God. We do not pray horizontally - to man. Matt. 6:6 states, ". . .When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." The thought of "closet," "shut doors," and "in secret" indicates, as far as human language can make the matter plain, that we are to tell God, and Him only, of our needs. Then, as witnesses, we should tell others how God met our needs and answered our prayers. Be sure and give Him the praise and Glory.

- Brother Paul R. Myers
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630

SOUND THE WARNING

By now, we all have heard of the Bicentennial events being held as our Nation is preparing to celebrate the 200th anniversary of our country. We have had a land of freedom and prosperity. On April 18, 1775, Paul Revere galloped through the area from Charlestown to Lexington, which was about twelve miles away, calling "The Regulars are coming!" All along the route at every farm, at every village, he leaped from his horse, pounded on doors, and shouted the warning. Thus he saved the town.

We as Christians have a responsibility to also sound the warning, "Jesus is coming soon! Jesus is coming soon." There are so many out in sin, with their thoughts on many things; how to get ahead, how to pay their bills, how to feed their families and how to keep a roof over their heads.

In this fast world, in which we live, many, the world over, don't even think of attending Church. They miss the strength for the day that comes from above. More and more people, from all walks of life; the college student to the senior citizen, are committing suicide. They just can not face their problems because they don't know the Lord. We, as Christians, have a work to do; to tell them what the Lord has done for us.

In our busy life, we don't take time to listen to another's problems or trials. The Bible teaches us to bear one another's burdens - to help our weaker brother or sister. A kind word or a prayer in their behalf could mean so much for the discouraged.

God hates "a false witness that speaketh lies . . ." Prov. 6:19. A falsehood hurts and mars the influence of others. False witness against a man or a woman is as evil as murder or adultry. We condemn the red light district of our cities but never seem to get around to condemning the slandering socialities of our Churches. Oh! Yes, it's even in the Churches. The devil is working harder than ever, since he knows his time is running out.

Our great nation is losing its greatness. When a nation turns from God, it is losing ground. We need to spread the Gospel to bring the people back to God. A man may be saved because he sees a sign, "Jesus Saves," as he is driving along the highway or a tract lying on a park bench. Are we sowing any seeds? We need more Brotherly love, guidance and good will. Let us keep our minds and our hearts clean and pure. Let us go forth and weep, bearing precious seeds and we, the Scripture says, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing bringing our sheaves with us.

- Sister Viola Broadwater

CHILDREN'S PAGE

BREAD TO EAT IN THE WILDERNESS

Exodus 16:1-36

Can you imagine what it would be like for three million people to run out of food and get hungry? This is just what happened to the children of Israel. God had promised them, that if they would listen to His voice and do that which was right in His sight, He would take care of them and He would let none of the diseases that He brought upon Egypt come upon them. So they traveled on and came to a place called Elim, an oasis where there were twelve wells of water and palm trees. This looked very inviting to the people - good water to drink and shade to shield them from the hot sun. But God didn't let them stay here. He had a better place for them to go; the quicker they crossed the wilderness the better. It had been two months and fifteen days since they had left Egypt when their food began to run out. They had taken their herds and flocks; but for so many people it would have taken a lot of food. They came to a place called the Wilderness of Sin. No food here - just a barren waste. Can you guess what the people did? They did just like they had when they got thirsty. They murmered against Moses and Aaron and said, ". . Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full. . . ." Can you imagine such a thing after all God had done for them? They didn't seem to remember what being a slave was like; how they were whipped and made to work day after day under cruel task masters. They were thinking only of eating and remembered that in Egypt they had had food to eat. I suppose in their place we would have done the same. How soon we forget how good God is. He didn't bring them out into the wilderness to die. He had promised to bless them and take them to a land of plenty.

The Lord heard the murmurings of the children of Israel. God doesn't like us to complain; but He said to Moses, ". . .I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no."

Moses and Aaron told the people to gather near unto the Lord. The glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud and the Lord spoke unto Moses. "At even you shall eat flesh, and in the morning ye shall be filled with bread; and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God."

It happened just like God said. In the evening quails came and covered the camp by the thousands and the children of Israel had all the meat they could eat. Do you know what happened next morning? There

was a heavy dew; after the dew was dried up, the ground was covered with little, white, round things about the size of a pepper-corn. The Lord told them to gather all they could eat but not to leave any over. Of course, some one had to try it; and any that was left spoiled and had worms in it. Some people have to learn the hard way. This food was called, "manah" or bread; and it tasted like wafers made with honey. One place in the Bible it is called, "angels food." This food, God gave them forty years till they came to the land of Canaan.

Do you believe God can provide for His people? God can do anything. Jesus says, ". . .What man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good gifts to them that ask Him?"

- Brother Rudy Cover

THE FAMILY

The family is like a book -
The children are the leaves,
The parents are the covers
That protecting beauty gives.

At first the pages of the book
Are blank and purely fair,
But time soon wrieth memories
And painteth pictures there.

Love is the little golden clasp
That bindeth up the trust;
Oh, break it not, lest all the leaves
Should scatter and be lost.

- Anonymous
Selected by Sister Margaret Myers

The smaller we are, the more room God will have in our lives.

In order to realize the worth of the anchor, we need to feel the stress of the storm.

YOU ARE GOD'S PROPERTY

"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price (Christ's own shed blood); therefore glorify God in your body, and in your Spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:19-20.

Here we see we are God's property and we don't belong to the devil. Jesus said of the devil, ". . .for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." John 14:30. Here we see if the devil does not own us then we belong to God for no one can serve two masters.

The devil, today, is trying hard to deceive us, trying every way he can, to keep us from serving the Lord. If we follow Jesus we have Life, Hope and Faith.

Jesus wants us to love Him and be willing to give ourselves, so His work here on earth can go forward. Christ died for you and me so we in our body and spirit, which are God's, should submit to His will and put our trust alone in Him. We must always be on our guard for ". . .the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." I Peter 5:8.

Romans 12:3, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power; of love and sound mind.

We know when we accept Christ as our Saviour and are born again, we are His children. Then we are babes in Christ and we start to grow and produce fruit by living a true Christian life before those we come in contact with each day. They know by our lives we are serving a loving Saviour. He is the one who died that we all can have a home in Heaven, when this life here has come to an end.

- Sister E. M. Alltus
Modesto, California

THANK YOU

Although I am a bit late, I want to thank all the dear Brothers and Sisters, neighbors, and family who ministered to us following our accident. I am so thankful to think, there is a people who would take time out of their daily life; to visit, to prepare meals, to send beautiful cards and flowers, to pray and to make a beautiful scrap book that will always be a treasured memory. May God richly bless you for your kindness to us.

- Sister Mabel Wells

AN AFFLICTION?

Years ago a blind man came to our meetinghouse to conduct a singing-class. He was an expert in music and knew how to teach it. His books were made for the blind. By passing his fingers over the raised lines he could read readily. He needed no light to read by. The first evening the lamps in the meetinghouse gave very poor light, so much so that most people could not see to read. The blind teacher did not know the difference. He called out the number of the hymn and proceeded to sing. As the people could not see well but few of them helped to sing. A preacher in the congregation then rose and remarked that the blind man was more fortunate than most people, for he could read whether there was any light or not. Everybody smiled. The blind man said he never thought of it in that way before. Possibly more of us might take that view of our misfortunes.

- Selected from Our Saturday Night

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation enjoyed a season of Revival from October 26 to November 2 with Elder Dean St. John from the Pleasant Ridge Congregation, Ohio.

He gave us much Spiritual food for thought. One Precious Soul accepted the call to follow Jesus. We all rejoiced; and how much more did the angels in Heaven rejoice. A Love Feast was held on the evening of November 1.

We wish to thank Bro. St. John and his companion for being with us. We pray that the Lord will bless him and his family as he continues to preach the Good News to other congregations.

- Sister Edyth Kline, Asst. Cor.

A great deal of what we see still depends on what we're looking for.

The most difficult arithmetic to master is the art of counting our blessings.

MARRIAGES

EBY-YODER

Sister Lois Jean Eby, daughter of Brother and Sister George Eby, Wauseon, Ohio, and Jerry Yoder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Yoder, Mark Center, Ohio were united in marriage August 30. Ralph Yoder performed the ceremony.

They are at home at Mark Center, Ohio 43536.

ARMSTRONG-FLORY

Sister Lola Armstrong, daughter of Brother and Sister Ellis Armstrong, Wauseon, Ohio, and Brother Joseph Flory, son of Elder and Sister Harley Flory, Defiance, Ohio were united in marriage on Saturday afternoon, October 18 at the West Fulton Church.

The ceremony was performed by Elder Harley Flory. Elder H. Edward Johnson gave a short message preceeding the ceremony.

They are at home at R. 4, Defiance, Ohio 43512.

MARKS-STUBER

Sister Delores Louise Marks, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Paul F. Marks of Felton, Penna., and Bro. Ray Stuber, son of Bro. and Sis. Paul F. Stuber of Ephrata, Penna., were united in marriage on May 24, 1975, at the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church.

Bro. Laverne Keeney, uncle of the bride, performed the ceremony, after a message brought by Bro. Jack Snyder. They are residing at 938 May Road, Lititz, Penna. 17543.

MARKS-PRIMEAU

Sister Marian I. Marks, daughter of Sister Dorothy E. Marks, and the late Bro. Melvin F. Marks, of Red Lion, Penna. and Bro. Stanley P. Primeau, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley P. Primeau, Sr. of Pine Grove, Penna. were united in marriage on June 28, 1975, at the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church.

Bro. Laverne Keeney, uncle of the bride, performed the ceremony, after a message brought by Bro. Jack Snyder. They are presently residing at Route 4, Red Lion, Penna. 17356.

That they deny a God destroy man's nobility; for certainly man of kin to the beasts by his body; and if he be not of kin to God by his spirit, he is a base and ignoble creature. - Francis Bacon

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Paul R. Myers
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL LIV JANUARY 15, 1976 NO. 2

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BELIEVE THE BIBLE

There are some who believe the Bible,
And some who believe in part,
And some who trust with a reservation,
And some with all their heart.
But I know its every promise
Is firm and true always;
It is tried as the precious silver,
And it means just what it says.

It is strange we trust each other,
And only doubt the Lord;
We will take the word of mortals,
And yet distrust His Word;
But, Oh, what light and glory
Would shine o'er all our days,
If we always would remember
That he means just what He says.

- A. B. Simpson
Selected by Sister Ruth M. Snyder

BEAUTY

There is much time, effort and money spent in the pursuit of beauty. But the pursuit of that beauty, which can be purchased, is in vain for Madam Fashion very quickly decrees new standards of beauty as one fad fades into another. Often the beauty pursued proves not only elusive but ludicrous, as well. The standard of worldly beauty is often made to see what costume, what hairdo or what lack of dress can be the most outrageous. The magazines of the world are full of the designs and devices of Madam Fashion to allure all to follow her dictates. The world has a false sense of beauty that is based mainly on pride and sex-appeal.

Although often unrecognized, there is beauty, yet, left in this world. The most beautiful sight to be seen is a Christian Sister and a Christian Brother dressed in plain, modest attire. The beauty comes not just from the clothing, though it is full of meaning, but more so from the life that is lived in harmony with the meaning of the modest attire. A Sister dressed in an undecorated, modestly cut dress is more beautiful than a movie star. A Brother attired in a plain suit is more of a man than the greatest athlete.

Both Peter and Paul admonished the Christians of their day, and our day as well, to avoid the world's idea of beauty. I Tim. 2:9-10. "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." All parts of the body's adornment is covered in Paul's admonition, as well as by Peter (I Peter 3:3-4).

God has formed each person with the features, He thought best. He

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

wants that earthly body to be kept neat and clean but it can not be decorated to make it any more beautiful than He has already made it. Decorations and devices used to supposedly improve upon God's Creation become unnecessary appendages. Costly, faddish and useless. How can the inanimate rocks and minerals of the ground add an ounce of beauty to a living, breathing soul?

We are greatly appalled when God's Handiwork, the earth's scenery, is disturbed. If the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone or other natural wonders were destroyed there would be a great hue and cry raised in this land. Yet, the natural beauty of God's greatest creation has been destroyed by the dictates of Madam Fashion with very little protest raised.

Madam Fashion's employer, Satan, has a counterfeit beauty for each part of the body. He ordains feathers and other ornaments to be worn in the hair, which should be cut according to the latest style. He says beauty is in the wearing of rings, bracelets and other jewelry on the hands, wrists, ears and about the neck. He would cover the God-given beauty of the face with rouge, lipstick, eye-shadow and many other decorations. For modest dress, he would substitute the short, tight-fitting, form-revealing dress or slacks or even more scanty attire. He not only has introduced these immodest, immoral fashions for women but similar fashions for men. The man may also err in not only wearing these immodest clothes but in preferring or requiring that his wife or sweetheart would dress to please the worldly, lustful eye.

Satan is so very subtle in erecting his standards of beauty. They are ever changeable but yet all are designed to appeal to the sensual appetite. A Christian is beautiful when dressed by Biblical standards; but when he dresses to please the world, he neither pleases the world nor his God. Even the unchurched know that a Christian should be separated from the fashions of the world.

The dress of one may be plain and apparently modest yet lack full compliance with God's standard of beauty. Paul also admonishes against costly array. Rich, expensive material, only mocks the plain cut of the dress or coat. The cloth of the king's court or the theater doesn't belong in the Church.

The key to being beautiful, though does not lie so much in the clothing that is not cut or decorated according to the world's fashions, but in the adornment that takes the place of the world's fashions. "But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." I Peter 3:4.

What are you depending on for beauty in your life? Is it the lotions, the curlers, the decorations of the world; or are you depending on the "hidden man of the heart?" Let God's Spirit reign in your heart so you can be counted among His Beautiful People.

STUDY OF THE HOLY BIBLE

I have heard several members say that they would study the entire Bible more if they had a systematic way to study it. At present, they read here and there and are not able to understand the meaning of many chapters or to get the sequence from one chapter to another.

Yes, the Bible is similar to any book of deep meaning. It requires much study and meditation in order to receive a mental picture of its vast content. However, a systematic or outlined study will help much in gathering a picture of the relation of one book to another, also, of one chapter to another. Such an outline will help one understand the connection of the many characters mentioned in the Bible.

Prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and a sincere desire to learn is the foundation for studying the Bible. We must keep in mind that, whatever plan we may use to aid us in studying the Bible, nothing will replace actual study and cross-referencing of related subjects. In fact, actual memorizing of favorite passages and their location is of inestimable value in studying the Bible. A good concordance, as found in most large Bibles or in Cruden's Complete Concordance, is a must for the student to find the subject or verse he is looking for. A concordance merely tells you where to find the verse with a certain Bible word in it.

We have a set of three books available from the Editor or from any member of the Publication Board for a very low cost. The Bible Outline, the Old Testament History and the New Testament History will serve as a very good outline for the study of the Bible. I am not saying that these are the best books available; but I am saying that they are Biblically safe for anyone and at a very low cost. They are based on the King James Version of the Bible. I have found nothing that is even questionable in them. Please, remember that these books will not take the place of study and memorizing; but they do give a systematic method for studying the Bible and for learning about what time and place in history an event took place and by whom.

Remember these books should be studied in the order given; The Bible Outline, first; The Old Testament History, second; and The New Testament History, last. How much an individual understands of the Bible, through the guidance of these books, will depend upon how much that individual studies and memorizes. These books have been printed with a cheap, durable, paper binding; if a stiff cloth binding were used, they would cost about four times as much. The price of all Dunkard Brethren Printed Material is found in the February 1st Issue of the Bible Monitor.

- Brother Howard J. Surbey
for the Publication Board

SOUTH FULTON

A sermon by the late Elder Vern Hostetler
Text: "Thyatira" Rev. 2:18-29

John was placed on the Isle of Patmos as punishment for being a Christian. We are thinking of John's letters to the Seven Churches of Asia.

There are many interpretations of why he did this and there are many ways to look at these seven churches. There were many other churches, perhaps as many as one hundred. I think we can realize he picked out these seven for a specific purpose.

John, in describing them, put each one in a separate class as to its ailments and qualities. On these two things he judges the Asian churches.

In the history of churches we can see this in EVERY church; she can awaken and find herself in one of these positions, some in several. It is a warning for ANY church.

We have heard many sermons on the lukewarm condition of the church at Laodicea, but few about others.

We will talk about one of these - Thyatira.

It is said Nicator founded the city of Thyatira and it grew to a population of about thirty thousand. It was in a prosperous territory producing much fruit and riches at times. Thyatira was the home of the Macedonian woman, Lydia, a seller of purple and founder of the churches beginning there. A plant with red roots grew there in abundance. This plant, by a special process, was used to dye clothing. Today, the area is still noted for this special red or purple dye. The ancient city is now rubble, of course, but there is a sign where the church was. It was a very large and elaborate building with fine marble inlays.

The theaters were very numerous; and the pleasure-loving people who attended them believed the church goers were "religious weary." Some left the church to attend theater and thereby lost their church identity. This was their downfall, just as it is in present day churches.

When the Church was still small, Nero and three or four other Emperors caused trouble for early Christians. They ordered persecutions and tortures for the Church. The orders were to get rid of the Churches.

Why they had such a horrible hatred for the Church is not known. The devil did it, of course.

The Church at Thyatira was put to the test. Believers were killed. But each time a leader was killed; three or four new people joined the Church. Thyatira wouldn't be put down, wiped out or killed. The Church gained by persecution. Some of the persecutions were weeks of torture before death; leaders especially were tortured daily. Women were

gored by horned animals or thrown to lions. All this built a strong church. Some recanted but afterward repented, when they saw their friends and believers go through awful sufferings. They came back to the Church to suffer persecution and death for Christ.

The Emperor Constantine, a believer, did a lot for the Christian Church. He went into all territories to build churches.

Then they fell!

The Church could take persecution and grow; but they couldn't take prosperity. They went across the street to the theater. The very same thing happens today; the church is "pleasure mad." "Hold fast that which you have," Thyatira would tell us today.

John was writing about the future of the churches and of the false prophetess - Jezebel, worshipper of Baal. She had the greatest organization of corrupt religions known, "... to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols." Verse 20.

The Nicolatianes believed - "do any sin you want as long as you make it a religious activity." They introduced Baal to Thyatira. God gave Jezebel space to repent but she would not. Does the modern Church have any notion of repentance? They feel they need none.

How does God feel?

I'm afraid He will do what He did to Thyatira - "I will take away My Spirit, you are not worthy of it." A spiritual death for Thyatira.

"I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts; and I will give unto everyone of you according to your works."

But there were still a few who did not accept the doctrine of Jezebel or know the depths of Satan. These, He warns to "hold fast that which ye have till I come. He that overcometh, to him will I give power."

A lot of people don't believe there is a devil or a hell. Did you ever stop to think how deep you have to look sometimes to see the devil? He is very close and if he gets in a remote corner of a Church, you can't get him out. Where there is even a little trouble you know he is around; but it takes a trained eye to see him. If we are to get rid of him we must do it while we have opportunity.

It is a human and natural thing that the Church at Thyatira fell. Some had the notion that the Church ordinances were not necessary - such as feet washing and head covering for women. Some say their hair is a cover, other say, "I can be clean without the foot-washing ordinance." The best thing we can do is hold fast our Christian Belief. The devil does not like anyone who keeps God's Word. We have the promise that, "to him that overcometh will I give power."

Overcome what?

Satan!

"Resist the devil and he will flee from you." It takes power to do this -

spiritual power. It is not to run ahead of God; but to move ahead with His power. Psa. 27:14. "Wait on the Lord." It means watch and pray. We need strength and this power will be given in our watching and praying.

Rev. 2:27. "And He shall rule them with a rod of iron." God sent Christ to bring us light and the message of peace. "And I will give him the morning star. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Do you have an ear? Not the physical ear, but the Spiritual ear shall listen and receive the warning of John on the Isle of Patmos. Let us receive the admonition and hold fast that which we have.

- Sister Elta K. Blythe
822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois

QUEEN ESTHER'S GREAT COURAGE

Part 7

To the second banquet, to which the King and Haman had been invited, the King came full of humor; but Haman came out of humor. As they surrounded the banquet table, which Esther had prepared, the King asked Esther, the Queen, for the third time, to tell him what her request was. He wanted to know; and repeated his promise to her; that it would be granted, even to the half of the kingdom.

After Esther had time to consider the King's grant, she, finally, spoke her petition. It was for the preservation of herself and her people, from death and destruction. Esther, the wife of the king, and also a friend of her countrymen, made her humble petition. "... O, king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request." Esther 7:3.

To move the King more, she suggested that she and her people were bought and sold. They had not sold themselves by any offence against the government but were sold to gratify the pride and revenge of one man. Their liberty was not sold but their very lives. "But if we had been sold for bondmen and bondwomen, I had held my tongue. For we are sold ... to be destroyed, to be slain, and to perish." Esther 7:4. She referred to the King's decree (Esther 3:13), "And the letters were sent by posts into all the king's provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey."

The King stood amazed at the response that Esther, the Queen, gave

in behalf of herself and her people, the Jews. The King answered, "Who is he, and where is he, that durst presume in his heart to do so?"

The King was somewhat guilty of this plot to destroy the Jews, for he had consented to the bloody massacre, which Haman had designed. Esther could have charged the King with, "Thou art the man." But she plainly charged Haman with it, before his face. For this cause had he been invited. "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman." Esther 7:6. It was Haman who had designed their destruction.

Haman realized his danger. He was afraid before the King and Queen. He now saw the Queen as his prosecutor, the King as his judge, and his own conscience as a witness against himself.

The King arose from the table in a passion of anger, and went into a secret place to cool off and to consider what was to be done. He blamed himself for making such a wrong decision, that doomed a guiltless nation, and his own queen by the sentence he had pronounced. He now saw his favorite prince, whom he had taken to his bosom, as a villian who had drawn him to consent to such a wicked decree.

Haman became a humble petitioner to the Queen for his life. He understood, by the king's hasty departure from the banquet hall, that there was evil determined against him. Haman's countenance fell as he stood and fell at Esther's feet, to beg for mercy and to save his life. But the look improved on Esther's face, which of late had been neglected and doomed, as she saw her enemy begging for his life at her hand.

The King returned from his secret place to the banquet of wine. Those who were at the King's command, who adored Haman when he was the rising sun, now set themselves against him when he was a falling star. As the King spoke an angry word, they covered Haman's face as a condemned man; he was marked for execution.

"One of the chamberlains said before the King. Behold also, the gallows fifty cubits high, which Haman had made for Mordecai, who had spoken good for the king, standeth in the house of Haman. Then the king said, Hang him thereon." Esther 7:9.

Haman was hanged on his own gallows, which he had made for Mordecai. "Then was the king's wrath pacified."

- To be continued

Brother Clarence R. Gehr
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

NAMES GIVEN TO GOD'S PEOPLE IN ACTS

Believers - In Faith. Acts 5:14.
Brethren - In Love. Acts 6:3.
Disciples - In Obedience. Acts 9:1
Saints - In Separation. Acts 9:3
Christians - In Testimony. Acts 11:26.

STOP AND THINK

When unfortunate circumstances come into our lives, our first thought is, "Why did this happen to me?" That is a good time to stop and think about whether we are going in the right direction and about whom we should go to for help. Whether we can see any divine purpose in it or not, we can rejoice and thank God for the promise of His care; "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

God wants us to depend on Him, not on some person or thing. We may have someone close to us whom we trust; but "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Psalms 118:8. When we have problems we can't handle, we should go to Him, our only true source of help. Even when problems aren't overwhelming, it is wise to seek His guidance. When we recognize that we need Him, then all things can work together for good.

Stop and think, now, what it means to trust Him; to really depend on Him to supply all our needs. We have His promise, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19. If we believe this promise, we will trust Him even when everything goes wrong. We will trust Him when a problem looks impossible to solve, for "with God, all things are possible." When God says, "If you will just trust me, I will work it out for you," just cast all your care upon Him, for He does care for you. I Peter 5:7. Stop and think, what it means to us when we really trust Him. We are blessed and comforted and our hearts are filled with peace. "Thou will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee." Isa. 26:3. This peace is not possible if we do not trust in God. When we have peace, we are testifying that we really do depend on God to supply all our needs and to give strength above measure when trials come.

If we never reach out in faith, we will never know what a privilege God has given us. We will never experience the blessings He wants us to have. "O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him." Psalms 34:8. Once we have tasted of the Lord's goodness, we will neither be content to fret and worry nor to linger in the depths of despair when we don't know what to do. We will come to Him to seek for strength and for the answers to the problems we face.

Stop and think about whom you are trusting in. Is it yourself, another person, or is it God? Think about the foolishness of trusting in man contrasted with the wisdom of trusting in God. Who can deliver you out of your afflictions? Only God can. Who can strengthen you? Only God can. Who can bring peace to your troubled heart? Only God can. Stop, now, and really think about how complete His care is; then trust Him to do what's best for you.

"Be still, and know that I am God ..." Psa. 46:10. When our minds

are in a state of confusion and turmoil we can't be still. It takes a conscious effort to stop and think that God really is God, that He is our strength and our refuge, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psa. 46:1. "My flesh and my heart faileth; but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever." Psa. 73:26.

God is able to provide abundantly above all that we can ask or think. He truly deserves our trust and dependence upon Him. Not only is He able to help us, but He is willing. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:5, 6. The promise of direction is to those who trust and acknowledge God. Stop and think carefully, then trust in the Lord. When you do, His perfect peace will be yours.

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Part 30

Men who live good, clean, spiritual lives have power with God. God takes notice of people who are dedicated to Him. A spiritual man can be a great blessing to others, with the power he receives from God. Such a man has a decided advantage in prayer to God.

God gave Elijah unusual power. He received that power through a devout prayer life. "Elias" is the Greek form of "Elijah." We read in James 5:17-18 that Elias (Elijah) prayed earnestly that it might not rain on the earth. It did not for a period of three and a half years. He prayed again; and the heavens gave rain; and the earth brought forth her fruit. God heard and answered Elijah's prayer.

On one occasion, Elijah met a very poor widow. She was using the last bit of meal she possessed to make a cake for herself and her son. She was, then, gathering sticks to build the fire to bake it. She implied to Elijah that, after those cakes were eaten, they would die because there would be no more meal or oil.

Elijah told her to make him a little cake first, then to prepare for herself and her son. He promised her that neither the meal nor the oil would fail until the rains came and replenished the earth. She obeyed the Man of God. All three ate; and the meal and oil held out until the rain fell on the earth.

Following this experience, the widow's son became very ill and passed away. She rather pointed to Elijah as the cause, wondering if he

had come to call her sin to remembrance and to slay her son. Elijah took the dead son into his arms and carried him up into the loft, perhaps, an upstairs room. There, alone with God, Elijah stretched himself upon the child three times. He did more than that. He prayed, "O Lord my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again." The Word says that the Lord heard Elijah's prayer and life came back into the child. Elijah took the child down to his mother and presented him to her, not dead but alive. The child's mother made a wonderful statement, "Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the Lord in thy mouth is truth."

God's answer to Elijah's prayer caused the restoring to life of the widow's son. It confirmed the fact that Elijah had power in prayer. It convinced the widow that Elijah was a man of God. It should prove to our satisfaction that God does answer the prayers of Godly people.

- Brother Paul R. Myers
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630

CHILDREN'S PAGE

THIRSTING FOR WATER!

Exodus 17:1-7

Once again the children of Israel were traveling in the wilderness. God was leading them with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Whenever this pillar stopped, the Israelites made camp; and whenever the pillar moved ahead, they followed. How could any of them have doubted that God was protecting and caring for them? He had delivered them from the Egyptians and fed them with manna and quail. The people were tired and hot and thirsty; and the pillar finally stopped at a place called Rephidim. This was a nice place to camp except for one thing; there was no water. No drinking water for so many people could be very serious, indeed. It wasn't very long till the people began to complain to Moses that there was no water; and they said, "Did you bring us out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?" It appears they had forgotten how God had fed them when there was nothing to eat. If God could feed them by bringing manna out of the air, why didn't they believe He could give them water?

Moses cried unto the Lord, "What shall I do unto this people? They be almost ready to stone me."

God said, "Go on before the people and take with thee of the elders

of Israel; and thy rod . . . Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink." Moses did as the Lord had said; when he hit the rock with his rod, what do you think happened? Water came out, just like God had said. It must have been a big stream of water, clear and pure. All the children of Israel had all the water they could drink and more.

Do we always trust God like we should? Or are we like the children of Israel - always complaining everytime things don't go exactly like we think they should?

Jesus told the woman at the well in Samaria that if she would ask Him, He would give her living water so she would never thirst again. Jesus meant that He would give the Holy Spirit to those who believe in Him. Just as water we drink will quench the thirst and make the body clean, so will the Holy Spirit satisfy your soul and make it clean and pure. Do you want Jesus to give you His Holy Spirit?

- Brother Rudy Cover

BELIEF

I find in my dictionary that "Belief", "Trust" and "Faith" are listed as definitions of each other. Also, in my topical Bible, they are all listed under the heading of "Faith."

We hear so much these days about belief. "All we have to do is believe," at least, that is what the modern Preacher tells the people. My Bible tells me, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." So here, we see there is something else connected with believing. How can anyone know what we believe unless we show some evidence? James tells us that, "Faith without works is dead." He, also, tells us to show our faith or belief by our works.

The Lord Jesus teaches us that if we love Him, we shall keep His commandments; also, that His commandments are not grievous.

Is it anything but Satan's tool, unbelief, that keeps us from doing the things the Lord wants us to do?

The sick woman who had been ill for many years believed; and she did something about it. She simply got close to Jesus and was instantly healed. The Lord commended her for her faith. So we see it's needful to get close and to stay close to Jesus.

Abraham believed God; and it was imputed to him for righteousness. We know that he believed God because he did what God told him to do. How many of us are as obedient as Abraham was? Let each answer that for himself.

Noah, also, believed God; and did what He told him to do, even though his friends and neighbors undoubtedly made fun of him. If they had believed Him, they too might have been in the Ark when the flood came, destroying all but those in the Ark.

Thousands of the Hebrews perished in the wilderness because of unbelief and disobedience. So, let us be careful to believe only the Word of God and obey it, lest we also perish.

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good." I Thess. 5:21.

In Christian Love,
Brother Willard Beam

GOSSIP

Gerard E. Goodman

I am Gossip. . .I've been in the world since the world began. I'm only a little word, a name for an action, but the damage I do is great. I'm a vicious game that provides entertainment for men, women, politicians and even governments and, oh! how they love it. What is more fun than character assassination??? and those who use me put me high above other things, sometimes even mother love. When they hear a rumor, they can hardly wait to get to the telephone, to dash next door or get to the nearest ear available to pass along and spread my poison!!! And they know that I will be passed along!!

I am Gossip. . .A dirty word. I am filled with malice, unkindness, uncharitableness, and venom. Harsh words are they not? And those who indulge in this pastime usually have little or no regard for the truth. Truth would spoil the fun! Another thing, every time gossip is repeated, it grows, and grows, and grows. Finally it is distorted until it is quite different from what it was when it started.

I am Gossip. . .A sorry, sneaky word. I can ruin a reputation, break up a home, wreck a politician, or even change the image of a great nation. It has been done!

I am Gossip. . .A miserable, wretched word. I am particularly fond of those who work in public office, or who work with the public. This is really fun. Watch every place they go and with whom? Watch every move they make. Listen to everything they say. Sooner or later they'll make a mistake, or do something suspicious (being human), when this happens, hurry, hurry, hurry! Get your digs in before it is proven that whatever it was, was legitimate and above reproach. And don't bother to check details, this could spoil me completely!

I am Gossip. . .The name for a poor little word that the world could well do without, but never will. Those who use me should hang their

heads in shame. For I am always teamed up with exaggeration, disloyalty and envy. I seek to tear down and destroy. I am unchristian like! Are these strong words? Perhaps, but not even strong enough, and wherever the shoe fits, put it on.

- Selected by Brother W. E. Bashor

OBITUARY

MAE MARKS

Anna Mae Marks, the daughter of William D. and Emma (Price) Tharp, was born near Upton, Pennsylvania, June 30, 1902 and departed this life at Fayetteville, Pennsylvania, November 17, 1975.

She lived her early life in the area of Price's Church, which was early settled by her Price ancestors. She had lived in Waynesboro the last twenty years. She was the widow of Daniel K. Marks. She was a member of the Waynesboro Dunkard Brethren Church.

She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Percy Monn and Miss Alta Tharp of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

Funeral Services were held, November 20, 1975, at the Grove Funeral Home by Elder Frank D. Shaffer. Interment was in the Price's Church Cemetery.

ON THE LORD'S PRAYER

"You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer
And even once say 'I'
You cannot pray the Lord's Prayer
And even once say, 'My.'
Nor can you pray the Lord's Prayer
And not pray for another;
For when you ask for daily bread
You must include your brother.
For others are included in each and every plea;
From the beginning to the end of it
It does not once say, 'Me'"

- Anonymous

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 1976

Feb. 1 - Ezra Goes to Jerusalem. Ezra 7:1-28

Feb. 8 - Ezra Prays for the People. Ezra 9:1-15

Feb. 15 - Judgment on Mixed Marriages. Ezra 10:1-15

Feb. 22 - Weeping, Mourning, Fasting and Praying to God. Neh. 1:1-11

Feb. 28 - The King Sends Nehemiah to Jerusalem. Neh. 2:1-20

QUESTIONS:

(1) Why was the King of Persia so willing to make a decree that the law of God be carried out and money be supplied for the house of God in Jerusalem? Ezra 7:23

(2) Why did Ezra pray, "I am ashamed and blush to lift up my face to thee,"? Ezra 9:2, 6

(3) What did God demand of those who had taken strange wives (wives of other nations)? Ezra 10:10, 11

(4) (a) What had God said He would do if Israel transgressed His law? Neh. 1:8

(b) What did God say He would do if they returned to Him and would obey Him? Neh. 1:9

(5) How did Nehemiah know what to say when Artaxerxes, the King, asked him his request? Neh. 2:4

THE WAY CHRISTIANS LIVE

In Constant Joy. I Thess. 5:16-22, Rev. 21:4.
In Constant Prayer. I Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1.
In Constant Thanksgiving. I Thess. 5:18.
In Constant Response to the Holy Spirit. I Thess. 5:19.
In Constant Attention to Testimony. I Thess. 5:19.
In Constant Search for Good. I Thess. 5:21.
In Constant Purity. I Thess. 5:22; Matt. 5:8.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY COME

Memory verse, Luke 3:16, John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

Sun. 1 - Mark 16:1-20
Mon. 2 - Luke 1:26-56
Tues. 3 - Luke 2:1-20
Wed. 4 - Luke 3:1-22
Thur. 5 - Luke 4:16-37
Fri. 6 - Luke 5:1-17
Sat. 7 - Luke 5:18-39

Memory verse, Luke 7:19, And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

Sun. 8 - Luke 6:27-49
Mon. 9 - Luke 7:1-23
Tues. 10 - Luke 7:24-50
Wed. 11 - Luke 8:1-25
Thur. 12 - Luke 8:26-56
Fri. 13 - Luke 9:1-36
Sat. 14 - Luke 9:37-62

Memory verse, Luke 9:26, For whosoever shall be ashamed of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, When he shall come in his own glory, and in his Fathers, and of the holy angels.

Sun. 15 - Luke 10:1-24
Mon. 16 - Luke 10:25-42
Tues. 17 - Luke 11:1-28
Wed. 18 - Luke 11:29-54
Thur. 19 - Luke 12:29-59
Fri. 20 - Luke 13:1-17
Sat. 21 - Luke 13:18-35

Memory verse, Luke 12:37 Blessed are these servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching; verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

Sun. 22 - Luke 14:1-24
Mon. 23 - Luke 14:25-35
Tues. 24 - Luke 15:1-32
Wed. 25 - Luke 16:1-31
Thur. 26 - Luke 17:1-19
Fri. 27 - Luke 17:20-37
Sat. 28 - Luke 18:1-27

Memory verse, Luke 13:29, And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

Sun. 29 - Luke 18:28-43

Memory verses, Luke 13:35 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate; and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Luke 14:27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL LIV FEBRUARY 1, 1976 NO. 3

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE CHILD OF A KING

My Father is rich in houses and lands,
He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands!
Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold,
His coffers are full, - He has riches untold.

My Father's own Son, the Saviour of men,
Once wandered o'er earth as the poorest of them;
But now He is reigning forever on high,
And will give me a home in heav'n by and by.

I once was an outcast stranger on earth,
A sinner by choice, and an alien by birth!
But I've been adopted, my name's written down,
An heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown.

A tent or a cottage, why should I care?
They're building a palace for me over there!
Tho' exiled from home, yet still I may sing;
All glory to God, I'm a child of a King.

LITTLE IS MUCH

It would seem that the terms "little" and "much" would be opposites and could not be joined together. Naturally speaking this is so. But when considered in light of the words of the songwriter, "Little is much, when God is in it," we can see the relationship. What seems so contradictory at first becomes understandable when we allow God a place in our thoughts and affairs.

The small things of this life are often scorned. This is aptly illustrated by the purchasing power of the penny. The penny postcard of bygone days now costs nine cents. It is the large corporation, the large union, the large city, the large crowd, the large fortune that gains our notice and admiration; not the few, the poor or the unorganized. In the name of efficiency, strength and profit smaller groups are merged into larger ones. This may be necessary in the temporal affairs of mankind. But God is not impressed with man's person, wealth or numbers.

The Psalmist understands man's position before God when he says, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" Yet, God is very mindful of man, not as a group, but as an individual. The power of God displayed through little men becomes much. As God told the Apostle Paul, ". . .for my strength is made perfect in weakness," so God's power is still a perfect power for our good when we realize our weakness and depend upon Him to supply the strength.

Jesus was continually pointing out the small things and making them big. He spoke glowingly of the mite given by the widow. He suffered the

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

little children to come unto Him and blessed them. He called "little" Zacchaeus down from the sycamore tree. His birth hallowed a lowly stable. His death found Him in a borrowed grave. These were little things pointed out during His earthly ministry; but because neither a jot not a tittle shall pass from His Word they are enshrined in God's Word for all ages. Mary of Bethany is forever remembered for her anointing of Jesus because of His commendation, ". . .wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her." Matt. 26:13.

While we all admire someone who has been blessed with five talents, it remains for us to use the one or two talents that God has given us. Although someone has five talents, it does not mean that he has all the talents needed. The one-talent man may supply the very talent needed at that hour. In the Parable of the Talents, the Lord commended those who used their talents but was angry at the one who hid his single talent. We need to fear the wrath of God if we refuse to use the small talent given us while we envy the more fortunate. God has distributed the various abilities as it has pleased Him. We will be blessed only when we use those abilities for His purpose. God created the human body with many different organs. If each part does not function correctly, the body can not fulfill its purpose. It is said to be sic, diseased or afflicted.

The Church is also spoken of as a living body. It needs each member to perform his talent so it can function properly. If a member refuses, through laziness, disinterest or envy, to perform his expected part, the work of the Church is hampered. If this continues too long, not only the member but the congregation will be affected and begin to lose its power. There are Elders, Ministers, Deacons, Teachers, Trustees, Song-Leaders and others in the Church whose talents are more visible. Those who occupy the pews also have talents and responsibilities, even though not so public, to pray, sing, listen, live and witness. When all members - those with one talent as well as those with five - function together, the Church prospers.

The oil and the meal of the widow of Zarephath were almost gone - there was very little. But it proved to be enough to last the span of the drought, after the Man of God came on the scene. Truly the little was much. As a People of God we often feel like a nearly empty barrel. We feel insignificant as individuals, as congregations, as a Church, when compared to some of the larger religious organizations near us. When we see the magnitude and magnitism of Satan's kingdom of darkness, we feel very weak and undone. Despite the world's exaltation of largeness and power, we still know that the small, seemingly weak, things of God will confound the great.

How are you using the talent God has given you? Are you using it for Him so the little can be much?

NOTICE CONCERNING SUBSCRIPTIONS

Newlywed couples may receive a year's subscription free if a request is forwarded to the editor with their name and full address.

To those who anticipate moving - please report a change of address promptly to the editor to prevent the papers being miscarried.

It will also be appreciated if those who send in subscriptions will give the complete addresses and indicate whether they are new or renewal subscriptions.

It will be of help to the editor if subscriptions are always sent in the same name.

Is your subscription renewed?

- Editor

HOW TO SETTLE DIFFICULTIES

The story is told of two Christian men who "fell out." One heard that the other was talking against Him, and he went to him and said, "Will you be kind enough to tell me my faults to my face, that I may profit by your Christian candor and try to get rid of them?"

"Yes, sir." replied the other, "I will do it."

They went aside and the former said, "Before you commence telling what you think wrong in me, will you please bow down with me and let us pray over it, that my eyes may be opened to see my faults as you will tell them. You lead in prayer."

It was done, and when the prayer was over, the man who had sought the interview said, "Now proceed to tell me what you have to complain of in me."

But the other replied, "After praying over it, it looks so little that it is not worth talking about. The truth is, I feel now that in going around and talking against you I have been serving the devil myself, and have need that you pray for me and forgive me the wrong that I have done you."

The quarrel was settled from that hour. And there are several other difficulties that might be settled in the same way.

- Selected from Dec. 15, 1940 issue of Bible Monitor

DIRECTORY OF INFORMATION

CONGREGATION	NAME AND ADDRESS	AREA CODE EXCHANGE NO.
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Orion, O.	Paul R. Myers, Bx 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630	216-N. Canton HY 9-6080
Quinter, Kansas	Newton Jamison, 512 Garfield, Quinter, Kansas 67752	913-Quinter PL4-3433
Shrewsbury, Pa.	Howard E. Myers, Rt. 3, York, Pa. 17402	717-York 755-9812
South Fulton, Ill.	Mabel Harman, Rt. 1, Industry, Ill. 61440	309-Industry 254-3258
Walnut Grove, Md.	Howard J. Surbey, 749 W. King St., Littlest'n. Pa. 17340	717-359-4272
Waynesboro, Pa.	Frank Shaffer, R. 4, Greencastle, Pa. 17225	717-597-7282
West Fulton, Ohio	Charles Leatherman, Rt. 1, Wauseon, Ohio 43567	419-Wauseon 337-1176
Winterhaven, Calif.	Milton Cook, Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne, Anaheim, Ca. 92801	714-Anaheim 635-4575

EDITORIAL POLICY

That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

PRINTED MATERIAL

The following Dunkard Brethren publications are available to anyone, from the Boards listed:

GENERAL MISSION BOARD
The following tracts are free:

Do You Want Salvation?
The Lord's Supper
Which is the Right Church?
The Brethren's Card.
The Doctrine of the Prayer Veil.

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No charge for the following:
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SUGGESTIONS TO CONTRIBUTORS

We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the printer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thought may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as - "thot" for thought, "2" for two, "&" for and, etc.

6. Write or typewrite on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy the wording and the punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: beleive for believe, recieve for receive, judgement for judgment, ore for or, & for and.

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least 30 days prior to the date of the issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material in general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as: Local Sunday School officers, District meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam."

12. Read these and then write.

FIXED COMMUNION DATES

First Sat. April-Dallas Center, Ia.
Last Sat. April-Grandview, Mo.
Last Sun. April-Bethel, Pa.
First Sun. May-Waynesboro, Pa.
Third Sat. May-Dayton, Va.
Third Sat. May-West Fulton, O.
Third Sun. May-N. Lancaster, Pa
Fourth Sun. May-Shrewsb'y, Pa.
First Sat. Aug.-Broadwater Chapel, Md.
Sat. before 4th Sun., August-Swallow Falls, Md.
Labor Day weekend-S. Fulton, Illinois
Last Sun. Sept.-Mt. Dale, Md.
First Sun. Oct.-Walnut Grove, Md.
Last Sun. Oct.-Bethel, Pa.
Sec. Sun. Oct.-Waynesboro, Pa.
Third Sat. Oct.-Dayton, Va.
Third Sun. Oct.-N. Lancaster, Pa.
Fourth Sat. Oct.-Englewood, O.
First Sun. Nov.-Shrewsbury, Pa.

MINISTERIAL LIST

BASHOR, W. E. (E)
867 Lorna Drive
Glen Ellen, California 95442
707-996-0842

BIRD, WALTER W. (E)
R. 1, Box 93-A
Converse, Indiana 46919
317-395-3655

BLOCHER, PAUL D. (E)
R. 1
Union, Ohio 45322
513-836-3506

BROADWATER, CARL (M)
R. 6
York, Pa. 17404
717-792-1803

BYFIELD, PAUL (M)
R. 7, Box 29-B
Modesto, California 95351
209-523-8412

CARPENTER, ROBERT W. (M)
R. 5
Peru, Indiana 46970
317-395-7879

CARPENTER, WM (E)
R. 1 Box 242
Morenci, Michigan 49256
517-458-6535

CHUPP, ALVIN (M)
P.O. Box 188
Cuba, New Mexico 87013

COOK, MILTON (M)
Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne
Anaheim, California 92802
714-635-4575

COVER, RUDOLPH (M)
2307 Oakdale Rd., Space 34
Modesto, California 95355

EBERLY, ALLEN B. (E)
R. 3
Ephrata, Penna. 17522
717-354-9285

EBLING, DAVID (E)
Box 26
Bethel, Pa. 19507
717-933-8192

FLORA, JOSEPH E. (E)
R. 3
Adel, Iowa 50003
515-993-4382

FLORY, HARLEY (E)
R. 4
Defiance, Ohio 43512
419-497-2861

FULK, BIEDLER (M)
Fulk's Run
Virginia 22830

GUNDERMAN, H.M. (E)
22605 C.R. 118
Goshen, Indiana 46526

HARLACHER, GALEN (E)
404 Columbia Dr., N.W.
Newberg, Oregon 97132
503-538-2033

HARRIS, OTTO (E)
Box 131, Antioch Route
New Creek, W. Va. 26743

HARTZ, PAUL A. Jr. (M)
703 W. Cherry Street
Palmyra, Pa. 17078

JAMISON, DALE E. (E)
Quinter, Kansas 67752

JAMISON, HERMAN (M)
Quinter, Kansas 67752

JOHNSON, H. EDWARD (E)
R. 5 Box 76
Wauseon, Ohio 43567
419-335-9138

KAUFFMAN, EUGENE (M)
R. 6, Box 51
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
703-434-7824

KEGERREIS, DAVID (M)
R. 1
Bethel, Pa. 19507

KEGERREIS, JAMES (E)
R. 1, Box 92
Richland, Pa. 17087
717-933-4665

KEENEY, LAVERNE (E)
818 Millway Road
Lititz, Pa. 17543
717-626-6505

LEATHERMAN, CHARLES (E)
R. 1, Box 46
Wauseon, Ohio 43567
419-337-1176

LEATHERMAN, VIRGIL (M)
419 N. Queen Street
Littlestown, Pa. 17340
717-359-5753

LITFIN, GALEN (E)
1314 E. 7th St.
Newberg, Oregon 97132

MALLOW, ELDON (M)
R. 1, Box 40
Clearville, Pa. 15535
814-784-3131

MYERS, HOWARD E. (E)
R. 3
York, Pa. 17402
717-755-9812

MYERS, PAUL R. (E)
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

NESS, JACOB C. (E)
136 Homeland Road
York, Pa. 17403
717-741-1607

PEASE, WALTER C. (M)
Box 293
Quinter, Kansas 67752

PEFFER, JOHN (M)
R. 1
Carlisle, Pa. 17013
717-243-8328

PIFER, FRED (M)
R. 3
Adel, Iowa 50003
515-993-3187

REED, D. PAUL (E)
R. 3, Box 1
Riner, Virginia 24149

REED, HAYES (E)
1433 Overholtzer Drive
Modesto, California 95350
209-523-2753

REED, RAY R. (E)
R. 1
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063
515/992-3613

REED, R.Q.E. (E)
Star Route
Radford, Va. 24141

REED, W.S. (E)
Dallas Center,
Iowa 50063
515-992-3583

REPLOGLE, GEORGE E. (E)
R. 2
Arcanum, Ohio 45304
513-947-1074

RICE, JOSHUA (E)
R. 3
Frederick, Md. 21701
301-898-9741

ROESCH, MELVIN C. (E)
R. 1, Box 156
West Unity, Ohio 43570
419-924-5079

ROOT, WM. (E)
1612 Morphy Street
Great Bend, Kansas 67530
316-SW3-5284

RUSH, HARLEY (E)
R. 1
Converse, Ind. 46919
317-395-3751

SCHULTZ, CLYDE E. (E)
Box 105
Turlock, California 95380

SHAFFER, FRANK D. (E)
R. 4
Greencastle, Pa. 17225
717-597-7282

SHANK, RAY S. (E)
241 B Gettysburg St.
Dillsburg, Pa. 17019
717-432-2166

SHELLY, EMMERT O., Jr. (M)
California Rd.
R. 2, Box 395
Littlestown, Pa. 17340
717-359-4975

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703-967-1993

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707-938-4860

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Modesto, Calif. 95351
209-545-0551

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303-829-4521

SNYDER, JACK L. (M)
R.D. 1
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215-267-3174

ST. JOHN, DEAN (E)
R. 1, Box 103
Alvordton, Ohio 43501

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717-359-4272

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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scriptures and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or any one else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and unChristian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PA.

Frystown House, located in Frystown, in northwestern Berks County, one mile south of Route 22 and one mile west of Route 501

Milbach House, located halfway between Kleinfeltersville and Newmanstown, in Lebanon County or halfway between Schafferstown and Womelsdorf, Pa.

CLEARVILLE, PA.

Wards Church, located 14 miles southwest of Everett, Pa. all improved roads. From Everett take Route 26 to Clearville, Pa. At Clearville straight ahead South, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right, one and one-half miles, then turn right at fork. Ward's Church is five miles on the left.

DALLAS CENTER
IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Route 44, twenty-four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn south off of Route 64 on to Percival Ave. (first street west of R.R. tracks); the church is located 3 blocks south on the southeast corner of Percival and Ash Streets.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg exit No. 63. Go to second stop light, Route 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Route 257 two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road one block north of county No. 130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana No. 15 to Goshen, turn west at Police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., one block turn left on W. Clinton St. One mile to Green Rd., right one block and church is located on east side of road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1½ miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and south one block.

LITITZ, PA.

Meeting at Longenecker's Brethren Church, west of Lititz, on 501, coming from the south turn left at second light, from north turn right at third light, go about one mile to brick church on the left.

MECHANICSBURG,
CUMBERLAND CITY, PA.

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Route 114 into East and West, and by Route 641 into North and South. The church is located on West Keller St., or corner of Keller and Washington Street four blocks west of Market St. or Route 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Route 11 will lead east to Route 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Route 16 will lead west to Route 114.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway No. 50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colo., on U.S. No. 50 and then north one mile.

MIDWAY, INDIANA

An old red brick school house on your right, as you travel southwest from Peru, just off U.S. Highway 31, three miles from the Courthouse, which is located near the center of Peru, Indiana.

MOUNTAINDALE, MD.

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaindale, Md. from east

go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses No. 15, half mile west of Lewistown and six miles South of Thurmont.

PLEASANT HOME, CA.

Coming from the north on Rt. 99, to Ceres, go through underpass, turn right to stop sign on El Camino St., turn left on Park St. to 6th St. turn right one block to Roeding Ave., turn left and go 1½ miles to the Church on Roeding. Coming from the south, turn off highway on El Camino to stop sign, turn left on Park St. and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Route 20 alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Route 15 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

PLEVNA, IND.

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse, Route 513 passes north and south through Converse. From Converse south, two and one-half miles, turn right on blacktop road and go six miles west to Plevna; church is near the square of Plevna.

NEWBERG, ORE.

Highway 99W enters Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First St., go to third stop light, turn right on North Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Sts. Entering from the west, turn left at first stop light onto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Sts.

ORION, OHIO

Located in northeastern Ohio, on Orion Road, one fourth mile west of State Rt. 8, at a point six miles north of Canton or one and one-half miles north of North Canton and 17 miles south of Akron.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

S. FULTON, ILL.

Astoria, Ill., is located on Rt. 24, coming from east or west, turn south at the bank corner marked by the big clock. Two miles south and on the right at top of hill.

WAYNESBORO, PA.

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, churchhouse is one block.

SHREWSBURY, PA.

Fourteen miles south of York on Route 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MD.

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at Red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on county road 20. The church is on Rt. 20, about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south onto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Route 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on county road 20 at a store. The church is one and one half miles Swallow Falls Park.

WALNUT GROVE, MD.

About midway between Frederick, Md., and Hanover, Pa; One-fourth mile east of Route 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, Md.

W. FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, Ohio, located on U.S. Route 20 alternate, three and one-half miles west of junction of Ohio, Route 108 and U.S. Route 20 alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CA.

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., go right on Brookside (marked with a Highland Springs sign) to Jonathan, left to Lincoln and right to the church.

MISSIONS

CLEARVILLE, PA. - In South Central Pennsylvania, about half-way between Everett on Route 30 and Piney Grove on Route 40. About six miles south of Clearville, Pa., along hard road a little east of Route 26. Services second, fourth and fifth Sundays, 10:00 a.m.

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION
Located southwest of Cuba, New Mexico, 23 miles. Turn on State Highway 197 in Cuba. Follow Route 197 for 19 miles when you will take an unpaved road to the left. A mission sign marks this junction. Proceed 3 miles to the mission. Present personnel includes David and Mildred Skiles and family; Alvin and Mary Ellen Chupp and family, and Edith Moss. Visitors would be wise to notify mission in advance. Address, P.O. Box 188, Cuba, New Mexico 87013. Please contact for further information.

NEWS ITEM

GENERAL CONFERENCE, 1976
June 5-9

The Lord willing, 1976 General Conference will be held at the United Christian Camp Meeting Grove approximately one mile north of Cleona, Pa.

More detailed information as to directions, lodging and transportation will be furnished at a later date.

We will appreciate having your reservations as soon as possible. Write to:

Verling Wolfe
R. D. 1
Bethel, Pennsylvania 19507

or

Edwin S. Stauffer
R. D. 1
Newmanstown, Pennsylvania 17073

Conscience won't keep you from doing wrong, but it will keep you from enjoying it.

Children are creatures that disgrace you in public by behaving just like you do at home.

THE CHURCH'S CONSTITUTION

Matthew 18:20

Where - A Divine Location.
Two or Three - A Divine Testimony.
Are Gathered - A Divine Drawing.
Together - A Divine Unity.
In My Name - A Divine Authority.
There am I - The Divine Presence.
In the Midst of Them - The Divine Center.

GODLINESS

The Form of Godliness - The Hypocrite. II Tim. 3:5
The Mystery of Godliness - The Saviour. I Tim. 3:16.
The Doctrine of Godliness - The Truth. I Tim. 6:3.
The Profession of Godliness - The Believer's Confession. I Tim. 2:15.
Practice of Godliness - The Believer's Walk. I Tim. 4:7.
Pursuit of Godliness - The Believer's Object. I Tim. 6:11.

A DISCIPLE OF CHRIST

His Credentials and Character

His Master. John 13:14
His Clothing. I Peter 5:5
His Cross. Luke 14:27.
His Book. II Tim. 3:16.
His Badge. John 13:35.
His Fruit. John 15:8.
His Companions. Psalms 119:63

THINGS IN WHICH TO ABOUND

Abound in Faith. II Cor. 8:7
Abound in Hope. Rom. 15:13.
Abound in Love. Phil. 1:9.
Abound in Good Works. II Cor. 9:8.

• • • ● • • •

JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD

Exalted as Lord. Acts 2:36
Confessed as Lord. Romans 10:9
Owned as Lord. Acts 9:6
Praised as Lord. Psalms 9:11
Obeyed as Lord. Col. 3:17
Served as Lord. Col. 3:24
Denied as Lord. Jude 14
In Humiliation - Our Example. Heb. 12:3
In Exaltation - Our Representative. Heb. 3:1

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All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL LIV FEBRUARY 15, 1976 NO. 4

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

A ruler once came to Jesus by night,
To ask Him the way of salvation and light;
The Master made answer in words true and plain,
"Ye must be born again."

Ye children of men, attend to the word
So solemnly uttered by Jesus, the Lord,
And let not this message to you be in vain,
"Ye must be born again."

Oh, ye who would enter that glorious rest,
And sing with the ransomed the song of the blest;
The life everlasting if ye would obtain,
"Ye must be born again."

A dear one in heaven thy heart yearns to see,
At the beautiful gate may be watching for thee;
Then list to the note of this solemn refrain,
"Ye must be born again."

- W. T. Sleeper

THE REGENERATION GAP

During the past decade or more we have heard a lot about the "Generation Gap." The differences between parents and their children have been pictured as a gap - a division between the two generations. The parents do not understand their children and their new ways. The children resent the parents' admonitions and restrictions; often they rebel against the parents' authority. Many homes have suffered this division to such an extent that the home is totally ruined and alienation is so complete that many have left their homes to wander aimlessly. This gap has affected not only homes but schools and Churches as well.

The "Generation Gap" is a very serious thing. Even more serious is the "Regeneration Gap." The "Generation Gap" will pass in a few years when the young begin to take up the responsibilities, now borne by their parents, teachers and ministers. The gap will disappear as the divergence of views, narrows. But the "Regeneration Gap" is eternal. It is as "a great gulf fixed" unless a life and soul-changing decision to accept Jesus as Saviour is made.

When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, His message was "ye must be born again." This rebirth is the regeneration that brings not only reconciliation with God, but also a division in the affairs of life. To be regenerated means to have a Spiritual birth, to awaken, within, the desire for being right with God. Regeneration is a physical impossibility - a life extinguished can not be rekindled. But the Spirit of God can rekindle a life, Spiritually dead and alienated from Him and all that is good. This regeneration brings forth a new man, a new creature. Neither the mother of Nicodemus nor yours nor mine can give us a new birth - it is beyond

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

her physical power. But Jesus came to die so you and I could be born again - Spiritually.

When the new birth is ours, a change is made. Not only does our allegiance change - we are now God's instead of Satan's - but our whole way of living and thinking. Because we have this new life through God's Spirit, we should live by His direction. Lives lived by His direction will of necessity differ from the lives under Satan's influence. For the new man, all things are become new, not only his standing with God but the tenor of his living.

The Christian's style of living may be in one of two ways. Either the Christian will live according to the Spirit's dictates or according to the flesh's pleasure. There is a difference. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Rom. 8:13. The difference is the same as it is between life and death. The physical body will but decay and die, if our life is invested in fleshly pursuits, our investment will prove disastrous. On the other hand, if the life is improved by responding to the Spirit's direction, an eternal life beyond the troubles of this world awaits. Following the Holy Spirit is a life-giving experience since the Spirit is Himself the third person of the Eternal Godhead. Because the flesh would oft-times allure us and lead us to death, by the Spirit's direction we must put off the things of the flesh in favor of the things of life. It is not by mystical enchantments, pious self-destruction or vain, repetitious prayers and acts but by following the commands of God delivered by His Spirit to the writers of the Bible. These commands are for our soul's benefit.

When the choice is made to follow the Way set before us by the Spirit, a separation is made. The "Regeneration Gap" appears. Those who follow the Spirit are different not only from their former lives but from their old friends, their relatives and others who choose to yet follow the way of death. "And a man's foes shall be they of his own household." Matt. 10:36. Because the Spirit, through the Bible's commands, leads the Christian to live a life different from the world there is a gap between him and his friends. Neither understands why the other follows an apparently foolish pathway. The Christian wonders why anyone would continue in the way leading to death, though he once traveled that pathway himself. The non-Christian wonders why anyone would deny himself the pleasures of this world - its fun, sensuality and drunkenness.

The "Regeneration Gap" will last not only for the years spent on this planet - but for all eternity. When the soul takes its flight from this world, the gap will remain for the Christian will know nothing but bliss while the non-Christian will know nothing of bliss. At that hour the "great gulf fixed" will prevent a change.

But before that hour, you, yet, have an opportunity to get right with God, so you too will be on the right side of the "Regeneration Gap." ". . .Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."

CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE AMALEKITES ATTACK ISRAEL

Exodus 17:8-16

It was not easy traveling in a wilderness - no roads or highways like we have today and no automobiles. The children of Israel had to walk wherever they went. They were still camped at Rephidim. There was plenty of water to drink; and the people were refreshing themselves and taking it easy. Suddenly they heard a shout; and the people started screaming. An enemy had come upon them to plunder and steal, as happened only too often in those days. When it became dark, I suppose the enemy, the Amalekites, camped in a place near the camp of Israel expecting the next day to defeat and capture many of the Israelites. Slaves were a good price in that time; and it looked like easy picking. How could the Israelites ever survive an enemy, who was armed and used to fighting?

Moses said to a young man named Joshua, "Choose out men from the camp and go out and fight the enemy; tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand." Whenever Moses took the rod of God in his hand, you will notice, a great miracle would happen. Joshua did as Moses commanded. In the morning, Moses and Aaron and their brother-in-law, Hur, went up to the top of a hill overlooking the place where the battle would take place. Moses looked out at Joshua and his men fighting with the Amalekites. When Moses held up his hands with the rod of God, the Israelites would overcome; and when he let down his hand, the Amalekites would prevail. Moses was tired; and after awhile he just couldn't hold his hands up any longer. So, he sat down on a stone while Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side and one on the other. All day the battle went on; but, finally, the Amalekites were overcome and driven away. The Bible says they were driven away by the edge of the sword. Where do you think the young men of Israel got swords? Maybe they took them from the dead bodies of the Egyptians which were washed upon the shore of the Red Sea. Who knows? But they did have swords.

God was displeased with the Amalekites. He told Moses to write in a book that God would utterly destroy the Amalekites and that there would be war with them from generation to generation. Three hundred and fifty years later, this prophecy was fulfilled during the reign of Hezekiah when the Amalekites were utterly destroyed.

Once again, God protected His people. Do we believe, God will take care of us when the enemy of our souls, the devil, tries to destroy us?

Because the children of Israel doubted God and said, "Is the Lord among us or not?" God allowed the Amalekites to attack them; but He would not allow them to be destroyed. Israel should have trusted God; so should we.

- Brother Rudy Cover

"WHICH WAY?"

"See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil." Deut. 30:15. It is our belief that every person living in this world, who has come to the age of accountability, is still faced with that fact.

There has been given a different way to rid ourselves of the evil and to accept the Truth, that we might have life and good. Rom. 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." If, in our lives, we could only arrive at the conclusion that God is still the Supreme Being and is not dead.

I very recently noticed in the Newsweek Magazine an article, "Atheism Lives." Within that article was a description of the growth of that Godless belief, there being in November 1975 sixty thousand adherents to that belief. In the very next article, "Heresy Survives," was a statement that God is dead.

It is our conviction that as we draw nearer to the end of this world Satan is going to put forth every effort he can to deceive the world. But I believe the sad part is that a great number, who have believed at one time, have now come to the point in life, where they have lost their faith and have given in to the cunning of the devil.

Certainly, if we consider history and all the events of the Old Testament, God pity us, if we would even dare question the truth of the Word of God. Rom. 3:3-4. "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid; yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged."

In St. John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Ever since Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden and yielded to the temptation of Satan, sin has been dwelling in this world. It strives to make mankind victim of that which causes death; and when they do, they denounce the Son of God who came into the world that men and women might have life and have it more abundantly.

Lev. 17:11, "For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul." That was the way provided for the children of Israel, that they might have atonement for

their sins. But in the New Testament we have something different. Heb. 10:16-22, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."

The fore going is enough to show us that Christ is our redeemer; and that we should be obedient to His Will, His Gospel. But today there are many that deny the blood of Christ and the way He has given us to receive its benefits. But we must remember, despite the way the people are turning down the way of the Lord, will not make it of none effect - the Word of God still stands Supreme. In St. John 1:4, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men;" and in verse 11 of the same chapter, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Is it any wonder that at one place the Scripture tells us, Jesus wept over Jerusalem?

Considering both the Old and the New Testaments, our thought is this: if we want to have eternal life and good, and be saved from sin, there is only one thing to do - consider which way we are taking today. Can we not see the works of Satan in a lot of things that are going on today? I Pet. 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour;" There is an awesome challenge out today to us, to stand against the devil; and it is going to take the whole armour of God to do it.

James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God, Resist the devil, and he will flee from you," follows a picture the writer gives us of the proud and the humble. These are not the only things that Satan would put before us; there are many tools that he uses. One of his tools might work with one person and another tool with another; but when we resist the devil, there is something to do; that is to draw nigh to God. I believe there is no better way than what David says, "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." Psa. 119:11. Also, we remember that when our Blessed Lord was tempted in the wilderness, He quoted, "It is written. . . ."

I believe we are all aware that with our own strength we can not overcome the devil, but it is only through the Lord that we can have the victory; therefore, we should wonderfully praise His name. Psa. 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Thus, the knowledge of the Word of God and the Wisdom to use it aright is worth more than the gold of the world to us.

Prov. 4:18-19, "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that

shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble." The Apostle Paul wrote "The god of this world hath blinded their eyes." Certainly there is a lot of Spiritual blindness today. If there ever was a time to be steadfast, it is today. Now, we see the need of prayer, and as Paul exhorted, I Thess. 5:21, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

Prov. 12:28, "In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death." We can be thankful, we have God's Word to guide us in the right way, for "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Prov. 14:12. I believe life and death are before us today the same as they were in the days of old. Which way we go is up to us. Might we, in closing, receive the exhortation of the Apostle Paul. II Tim. 1:12, "For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

- Brother Melvin Roesch
West Unity, Ohio 43570

QUEEN ESTHER'S GREAT COURAGE

Part 8

King Ahasuerus sentenced Haman to be hanged. His house, estate and all that he had was given to Esther, the Queen, as compensation for the peril she had been exposed to.

Mordecai was promoted to be one of the King's Counselors. His procession paraded through the streets of the city of Shushan. Esther displayed great prudence in acknowledging Mordecai's relationship to her, at the moment most fitting to be of most eminent service to him. He was owned as the Queen's cousin, which even the King did not know until now, although Esther had been Queen for four years. So humble, modest and unambitious, a man was Mordecai that he concealed his relationship to the Queen, as well as her obligation to him as her guardian.

The King took off his ring which he had given to Haman and gave it to Mordecai. Esther 8:2. By that act, he transfered to him all the power and authority which the ring symbolized and promoted him to the high dignity which Haman had formerly had. Esther made him her steward, or factor, to manage that large and opulent estate which the King had given to her.

But, the edict was still in force. There were within the King's dominion those who hated the Jews and desired their ruin. Until the King

changed the decree that was made by Haman and sealed with the King's ring, the Jews were in danger.

But Esther, the Queen, came the second time, uncalled, before the King, to make intercession with much affection. She fell down before him at his feet with tears. She was, as before, encouraged by the King holding out his golden sceptre. Her petition was that since the King had put away Haman, he would also put away the mischief of Haman and his decree to destroy the Jews. She enforced her petition with a pathetic plea, "For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people?"

The King informed the Queen that according to the Constitution of the Persian government the former edict could not be revoked. What was written in the King's name and sealed with the King's ring could not, under any pretense whatsoever, be reversed. Yet, the King, desirous of undoing the device of Haman and of defeating his design, signed and published another decree. This decree authorized the Jews to stand upon their defenses; to oppose force and to destroy their assailants; this would be their effective security. "Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews." Esther 8:7.

The King gave Mordecai the authority to write a document for the Jews as he liked in the King's name and to seal it with the King's ring. This writing, which was written in the King's name and sealed with the King's ring could no man reverse. This edict was drawn up and published in the languages of all the provinces. The purpose of this decree was to commission the Jews, upon the day which was appointed for their destruction, to draw together in a body for their own defense. They could stand firm for their own life against whoever assaulted them. They could not only act defensively but might destroy and slay and cause to perish all the power of the people that would assault them. So Mordecai wrote it in King Ahasurus' name and sealed it with the King's ring and sent it throughout the provinces by posts on animals of speed.

Mordecai went from the presence of the King dressed in the royal apparel of blue and white, with a crown of gold and with a garment of fine linen of purple. Then the city was glad and rejoiced.

The Jews before were under a dark cloud and disgraced; but now they enjoyed gladness and honor. Many of the people of the land were proselyted to the Jewish religion. They gave up their idol worship and worshiped the true God. The City of Shushan rejoiced in the God of the Jews.

- To be continued

Brother Clarence R. Gehr
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Part 31

Prayer has always been a mystery. Through the centuries, millions have turned to prayer, believed in it and have been strengthened by the answers given. Prayer does not actually solve our problems. It does direct us to the right answers. It does not make trouble go away. Prayer gives us courage to face our trials. Prayer gives a man the bold assurance that he is not alone in his crucial hour.

We have a choice lesson of this nature recorded in I Kings 3:6-14. Solomon succeeded his father, David, as King of Israel. Solomon felt like a little child compared to the multitude of his subjects, who, he said in verse 8, "can not be numbered nor counted for multitude." He said that he knew not how to go out or come in. He meant, he did not know where to start operations as King.

He did, however, make the proper start. He prayed to Almighty God for wisdom. He prayed that he might have an understanding heart to judge the people. He prayed that he would be able to discern between good and evil. He prayed for wisdom that he might rightly judge such a large nation.

Analyze Solomon's prayer. It was not a selfish prayer. It was a prayer that would benefit the people, if answered. His prayer greatly pleased God. God was pleased because Solomon did not pray for himself; for long life or great riches. Neither did he ask for the life of his enemies. He asked for wisdom to govern his people rightly.

God heard his prayer and answered it. God told him there had been none wiser before him and there would be none wiser ever to follow him. He prayed for wisdom; and became the wisest man that ever lived.

Prayer did not govern his people; but it helped him to govern them. Prayer did not eliminate the problems of Israel, but it did give Solomon wisdom to handle them. God's answer to Solomon's prayer indicated that God was with him.

Solomon reigned forty years, from 1015-975 B.C. During that reign, the Temple at Jerusalem was built as well as his own palace. Solomon manifested his wisdom many times, as recorded in the Bible.

In the trying times in which we are living, I feel we each could profitably pray for wisdom; that we might preach the Word, that we might be good stewards of the manifold grace of God and that we might do God's Will at all times.

I believe such a prayer will please God as Solomon's did. I believe God will answer us as He answered Solomon.

- Brother Paul R. Myers
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630

TELL IT LIKE IT IS!

"Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor. . ." Ephesians 4:25. "Lying lips are abomination to the Lord; . . ." Proverbs 12:22.

It is important to tell the truth. God has spoken to us truthfully; therefore, we can trust Him because we know He will keep His word. God does not lie. If you are continually truthful and honest, you can be depended on. People will know you will do what you say.

You must tell it like it is, not like it sounds good, to be telling the truth. Call sin, a sin; call good deeds, good. Keep your word with God and man. Be truthful and honest in all your dealings. When you say you want to serve the Lord, back up your statement with action, lest it be only a lie. Both God and man appreciate a truthful person, so don't hesitate to "tell it like it is."

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." John 14:6. He told it like it is, for He is the only way of salvation. He has told us the whole truth about His power to save and His power to punish those who refuse salvation. He is our only source of life. And not a one of us can come to the Father except by Christ. His blood cleanses us from sin, giving us the right to approach our Heavenly Father.

When you take the message of salvation to someone, tell it like Christ gave it. He saves us from our sins, not in our sins. He made salvation available to all who will come. It is a free gift, made possible because He loves us. We are saved by grace (unmerited favor) through faith; salvation cannot be earned. Don't deceive yourself or anyone else into thinking sin doesn't matter. Just be truthful and tell it like it is! "A faithful witness will not lie;" Proverbs 14:5a.

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

GUIDE - A man, who was about to take a perilous journey through the mountains, was given not a little advice. As is often the case in such situations, the advice was contradictory. One warned him against taking any of the bypaths that led away from the main road, while others declared that many of these paths could be pursued with profit, since they meant shortening the distance toward his destination. So it was with a number of things that left him in doubt. "It seems," he said to himself, "I shall have to guess at what I do not know." Just then one appeared and said: "I am the authorized guide. I am ready to go with you all the way, if you will but follow my teachings.

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation met in council on December 13, 1975. We were made to rejoice when four souls were reunited to the church and one taken in by baptism. We pray we may all work together for the good of our souls and the Church in these last and latter days, that all might be saved to enjoy that home above, when labors and trials are over here below.

- Sister Della Klepinger, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation held their Lovefeast Sunday, October 26, 1975. Ministers with us during the day were: Elder Paul R. Myers, of Greentown, Ohio, Elder Ray Shank and Brother John Peffer, from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, Elders Laverne Keeney, Allen Eberly and Brother Jack Snyder from Lititz, Pennsylvania. A goodly number surrounded the Lord's Table in the evening with Elder Paul Myers officiating.

Since our last report, we were made to rejoice when a young Sister was received into the church through baptism. Pray for her that she may keep true and faithful to the end.

- Sister Mary Hartz, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation enjoyed another two-week revival meeting, with Elder Joseph Flora as our evangelist this past year. Bro. Flora brought us many inspiring and challenging sermons. At the close of the meeting, we were made to rejoice when a young couple and another young man made their decision to unite with the Church and were baptized. We thank all the visitors from other congregations who came to share the services with us. We were happy that Sister Arlene could come along. May God bless them in their many labors for the Lord.

- Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

Difficulties are God's errands; and when we are sent upon them we should esteem it a proof of God's confidence - as a compliment from Him. - Beecher.

MARRIAGES

HOFFMAN-NOLL

Sister Darlene Hoffman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hoffman of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania and Brother Steven Noll, son of Brother and Sister Vincent Noll of Pine Grove, Pennsylvania were united in Holy Matrimony on July 12, 1975 at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church at Frystown, Pennsylvania. Elder David F. Ebling performed the ceremony, after a message was brought by Brother Paul Hartz. They are making their home at Route 1, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania 17963.

BANGE-GINGRICH

Joy Annette Bange, daughter of Janet Bange of Hanover, Pennsylvania and Roy Eugene Gingrich son of Brother and Sister Roy E. Gingrich of Palmyra, Pennsylvania were united in marriage on August 30, 1975 by Pastor Arthur Thomas. This union took place at God's Missionary Church, Hanover, Pennsylvania. The newlyweds are residing at Route 4, Hummelstown, Pennsylvania 17036.

LONGENECKER-BURKHOLDER

The wedding of Sister Debra Fern Longenecker and Brother Glenn Harold Burkholder took place on October 25, 1975 at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Frystown, Pennsylvania. Debra is the daughter of Brother and Sister George H. Longenecker of Bernville, Pennsylvania. Brother and Sister Jay Burkholder of Manheim, Pennsylvania are the parents of the groom. Brother Jack Snyder from Lititz, Pennsylvania brought a message after which Brother David Kegerreis, brother-in-law of the bride, performed the ceremony. The couple are residing at Route 1, Bernville, Pennsylvania 19506.

LITFIN-WOLFE

Sister Karen Lynn Litfin, daughter of Brother and Sister Doyle A. Litfin, Oakdale, California, and Brother Jim Wolfe, son of Brother and Sister Verling H. Wolfe, Bethel, Pennsylvania were united in marriage on December 20, 1975. Elder James Kegerreis, grandfather of the groom, performed the ceremony.

They are residing at 6500 Jackson St., Apt. 10, Riverbank, California 95367.

No pain, no palm; no thorns, no thrones; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown. - Penn.

OBITUARIES

LEOTA BRUBAKER

Leota May (Cline) Brubaker, daughter of Harve and Etta May (Kendall) Cline, was born May 9, 1906 in Liberty Twp., Howard County, Indiana. She passed away at her home at Logansport, Indiana on December 13, 1975, after an illness of eleven years. She has been an invalid for the last five years. She was 69 years, 7 months and 4 days old.

On September 15, 1928 she was united in marriage to Earl S. Brubaker who survives. Also surviving are four children; Mrs. Duane (Letha Irene) Mahler of Millersburg, Indiana, Charles Harvey Brubaker of Logansport, Indiana, Darrell Dean Brubaker of Kokomo, Indiana, Mrs. John (Thelma Darlene) Rockenbaugh of Millersburg, Indiana. Also six grandchildren, one great-grandchild and two step grandchildren. Her mother, Etta Cline of North Grove, Indiana, one sister, Reverdia Wolf of North Grove, Indiana, nieces, nephews and many friends.

She united with the Church of the Brethren at the age of twelve years and later became a charter member of the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church in 1926.

All of her life, except the last five years, was spent in the Amboy community, where she was born and grew up. She was of a quiet disposition with her family and in the Church. She will be missed by all. She bore her affliction with much patience. Our loss is her eternal gain.

Services were conducted at the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church on December 17, 1975 by Elder Melvin Roesch and Elder Harley Rush. Burial services followed in the Kendall Cemetery near by.

Mother dear, you are not forgotten,
Though on this earth you are no more.
Still your memory is ever with us
As you always were before.

In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweet, tender, fond and true.
There is not a day, dear mother,
That we do not think of you.

We miss your busy footsteps,
Your loving, gentle smile,
'Tis God who has bereft us
For just a little while.

God called you home, dear mother,
For an angel in His realm.
Some sweet day we'll meet you, mother
In that great and happy throne.

A precious one is from us gone,
A voice we loved is stilled.
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

Yet again we hope to meet thee,
When the day of life is fled.
There in Heaven with joy to greet thee,
Where no farewell tear is shed.

The family wishes to express their thanks for all the thoughtful expressions of sympathy at this time of the loss of their loved one.

GRACE C. ADAMS

Sister Grace C. Adams, 95, departed this life, Nov. 6, 1975 at the Guilford Convalesarium near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, where she had been a patient for a number of years.

Born at Ringgold, Maryland, she was a daughter of John and Susan (Hoover) Sigler. Her husband, Ira B. Adams, preceded her in death on Aug. 16, 1956. She had formerly resided at R.D. 3, Greencastle, Pennsylvania.

She is survived by one sister, Mrs. David Stouffer of Hagerstown, Maryland.

She first joined the Church of the Brethren, then the Dunkard Brethren Church in 1935. She was a faithful member of the Waynesboro Congregation for the last forty years. She had been the oldest member of the district. She left this life with many friends.

Funeral services were conducted Nov. 8 at 2 p.m. in the Snyder Funeral Home, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania by Bro. Frank Shaffer.

Interment in Price's Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

MILDRED E. DEMUTH

Sister Mildred E. Demuth, 80, departed this life, Aug. 7, 1975, at the Mt. Hope Dunkard Brethren Church Home near Manheim, Pennsylvania. She had been a guest at the home for the past two years and was seriously ill for two days. She had formerly resided at 23 Hillcrest Ave., Wayne Heights, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

Born at Dillsburg, Pennsylvania, she was a daughter of the late George and Annie (Weber) Slothower. Her husband, Elder Henry Demuth, preceded her in death on Sept. 12, 1966. Sister Demuth was the last of her immediate family.

To this union were born two children; one son, William H. Demuth, Chambersburg, and one daughter, Mrs. Martha Strite, R.D. 5, Hagerstown, Maryland. She is also survived by three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

She was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church since 1930 and a charter member of the Waynesboro Congregation. She supported her husband well in his capacities in past years as Minister and Elder. She left this life with many friends.

Funeral Services were conducted Aug. 10 at 2 p.m. in the Dunkard Brethren Church Waynesboro, Pennsylvania by Bro. Frank Shaffer assisted by Bro. Howard Surbey. Interment in Price's Church of the Brethren Cemetery, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS

FOR MARCH

March 7 - Rebuilding in Face of Opposition. Neh. 4:1-23

March 14 - Helping One Another for the Cause. Neh. 5:1-19

March 21 - "I Am Doing a Great Work and Cannot Come Down." Neh. 6:1-19

March 28 - The Reading of the Law. Neh. 8:1-18

QUESTIONS:

(1) What did the people have that was so important in building the wall of Jerusalem? Neh. 4:6.

(2) Who were the enemies of Jerusalem? Neh. 4:7

(3) Who did the Jews depend on to fight for them? Neh. 4:20

(4) What was Nehemiah's reply to Sanballat's request that they meet for reconciliation? Neh. 6:3,4.

(5) From what did Nehemiah read to the people by the water gate? Neh. 8:3,5,8.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MARCH 1976
COME

Memory Verse Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Sat. 1 - Luke 19:1-28

Memory Verse Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

Sun. 2 - Luke 19:29-48
Mon. 3 - Luke 20:1-19
Tues. 4 - Luke 21:1-19
Wed. 5 - Luke 21:20-38
Thur. 6 - Luke 22:1-30
Fri. 7 - Luke 22:31-62
Sat. 8 - Luke 23:1-25

Memory Verse John 1:30 This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me; for he was before me.

Sun. 9 - Luke 23:26-56
Mon. 10 - Luke 24:1-31
Tues. 11 - John 1:1-28
Wed. 12 - John 1:29-51
Thur. 13 - John 2:1-25
Fri. 14 - John 3:1-21
Sat. 15 - John 3:22-36

Memory Verse John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the miracles that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Sun. 16 - John 4:1-26
Mon. 17 - John 4:27-54
Tues. 18 - John 5:1-24
Wed. 19 - John 5:25-47
Thur. 20 - John 6:1-21
Fri. 21 - John 6:22-47
Sat. 22 - John 6:48-71

Memory Verse John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life; he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

Sun. 23 - John 7:1-27
Mon. 24 - John 7:28-53
Tues. 25 - John 8:1-26
Wed. 26 - John 9:1-23
Thur. 27 John 9:24-41
Fri. 28 - John 10:1-30
Sat. 29 - John 11:1-27

Memory Verse John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Sun. 30 - John 11:28-57
Mon. 31 - John 12:1-23

Memory Verses John 11:27 She saith unto him, Yea, Lord; I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

John 12:12,13 On the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem,

13, Took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried, Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV MARCH 1, 1976 NO. 5

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HAVE THINE OWN WAY, LORD

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Thou art the Potter; I am the clay
Mold me and make me After Thy will,
While I am waiting, Yielded and still.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Search me and try me, Master, today!
Whiter than snow, Lord, Wash me just now,
As in Thy presence Humbly I bow.

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Wounded and weary, Help me, I pray!
Power - all power - Surely is Thine!
Touch me and heal me, Saviour divine!

Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way!
Hold o'er my being Absolute sway!
Fill with Thy Spirit Till all shall see
Christ only, always, Living in me!

- Adelaide Pollord

THE BEATITUDES:

AN OUTLINE FOR CHRISTIAN LIVING

All in this life desire blessings or happiness. Many might not use these terms to describe their hearts' longings. They might think of fun, fame, fortune or long life; but they will find, even when their desires are fulfilled, they have no lasting happiness.

Jesus spoke of lasting blessings, in the portion of His sermon called the Beatitudes. Matthew 5:3-12. The word "beatitude" means blessedness or happiness. Jesus, first, speaks of the promise of blessedness, then of the various obligations that must be carried out in order to secure that blessing. These obligations form an outline for the Christian life.

An outline is a simple, undetailed presentation of a subject. The New Testament contains the details needed to fill out this outline. Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount and throughout the Gospels and the Apostles in the remainder of the New Testament give us the ordinances and duties needed for a complete Christian life.

The attitudes of the world are in complete disagreement with these Christian attitudes. The values of the world differ from those of Christ.

"The poor in spirit." The world believes a man must be aggressive, self-confident and a leader. But Jesus would have His follower to prefer another before himself, to be lowly. Jesus promises happiness for the one who is poor or lowly in his own estimation. Humility is nearly lost in this world. Although the followers of Jesus are poor in their own estimation, they will possess a rich kingdom.

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

"They that mourn." The man of the world is only sorry for his misdeeds and sins when he gets caught. Even then there is little remorse or repentance. But the Child of God mourns or sorrows over his sins. The thoughts and deeds of his life which are contrary to God's Will, though never detected by another person, cause him grief. Though he sorrows now, he shall feel God's comforting arm about his shoulders.

"The meek." There is little gentleness in this old, harsh world. Men are taught to seek their "rights" and "justice." Jesus was, Himself, meek and lowly, suffering the unjust punishment of both the secular and religious leaders. The meek are continually pushed back, their rights abridged but in the end they are the inheritors of the earth.

"They which do hunger and thirst after righteousness." Many in this world hunger and thirst for the physical necessities of life. Many more desire the lustful and wicked pleasures of this life; but the Christian needs a hunger and thirst for holy things. Though the world can not satisfy that holy desire, God can.

"The merciful." God is the source of mercy - the favor shown to man by not giving him what he deserves. The unmerciful world, believing its theory of evolution, lives according to the law of the jungle - "survival of the fittest." But the merciful shall in the end be the recipients of Divine Mercy.

"The pure in heart." Purity is nearly obsolete in a world engulfed and engrossed in pornography, sex, fornication and near-nudity. But a pure heart, mind and eye will be the only ones to see God.

"The peacemakers." "Wars and rumors of wars" are ever with us in this world. Not only are men fighting one another but God as well. The peacemakers are not the diplomats of the world's governments but those who take forth the Gospel in word and example. These "Children of God" not only seek that title for themselves but seek others for that title.

"They which are persecuted." Many are down-trodden and imprisoned in this world for the Gospel's sake. There have been many Christian martyrs during the past two milleniums. Though the kingdoms of this world persecute and kill them, they have a right to a greater kingdom.

To this point Jesus has spoken of others - "the poor in spirit," "the meek," "they which. . ." - now He brings the message directly to each hearer and reader. "Blessed are ye . . ." makes the promises and obligations your own.

These blessings, promises and obligations have no meaning without Jesus Christ. These attitudes can not be found in a man except he first accept Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour. Are you happy? Make the Beatitudes your own so you can look forward to a happiness greater than this world can provide.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

GOOD ADVICE

Exodus 18

Before God delivered Israel from Egypt, Moses was forty years in the land of Midian herding sheep for a man named Jethro. Jethro was a priest or a prince of that country; and Moses married his daughter, Zipporah. They had two sons, Gershom and Eliezer. After Moses came back to Egypt and led the Israelites through the Red Sea and on toward Caanan, they camped in a place near Mt. Horeb, close to where Jethro lived. Moses had sent his wife and their two sons to Jethro. Now that they were close to Midian, Jethro brought Zipporah and the two boys back to Moses.

Moses respected his father-in-law; and told him about all the wonders that God had done and how they were delivered from Pharaoh. Jethro rejoiced that the Lord had delivered Israel and said, "Blessed be the Lord, who hath delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh. . .Now I know that the Lord is greater than all gods."

How good it must have been for Moses to see his wife and two sons again. Many dangers and trials had happened since he last saw them. The Lord had fought their battles and had blessed Israel, even though they many times complained and mistrusted Him. Now, Moses' family was together again; and they could journey on to the promised land.

When the children of Israel had a problem, they would come to Moses for him to judge what was right. There were so many people and so many problems that Moses had almost more than he could take care of. Jethro observed Moses judging the people and finally said, "You are wearing yourself out with so much to do. Hearken unto me and I will give you some good advice. Choose out men of truth and teach them the laws of God and put them as rulers over thousands, and hundreds, and fifties, and tens; and let them judge the people in small matters and only bring unto you the real serious matters. If you do this, then you will be able to endure and the people will have peace." Moses listened to his father-in-law's advice and chose able men out of all Israel and made them rulers over the people.

Jethro never did become an Israelite but he respected the Lord God of Israel. Moses was a man of God; but he wasn't too proud to take good advice when he heard it.

God wants us to all have a part in His kingdom. No one is able to do it all, but when we all work together, each one doing his part, then we will have peace in our hearts and in the church.

- Brother Rudy Cover

A RUNAWAY

Let us suppose that you are in a runaway vehicle, one without functioning brakes, starting a very treacherous descent down a mountainside. Going out of control with the speed increasing steadily means only death and destruction ahead, except for a miracle. As the driver, you have two choices; to ditch the vehicle immediately with the possibility of some injury, or ride it out in a dangerous gamble with death. The longer you take to decide, the more dangerous it is. Which would you choose?

Are you a runaway from God? Are you descending farther and farther into sin without anything to stop you? Is your life out of control, speeding away from God, with only destruction ahead? If so, you need the miracle of Christ in your heart to stop you and save you. You can't afford to gamble with death, hoping to be saved at the last moment. Perhaps then it will be too late to seek God, so why take a chance? Now is the time to turn to the Lord!

On a steep descent, the pull of gravity becomes stronger and stronger. The grip it has on you is harder to counteract, even when the brakes work well. So it is with sin. The pull becomes stronger, the grip harder to break away from, the longer you remain in Satan's control. When God speaks to your heart and says, "Stop before it's too late," Satan says, "You might as well take a chance on seeking salvation later." If you take that chance, you are in Satan's grip more firmly than before. If God calls you again, it will be even harder to break away from sin.

There are times when a driver doesn't realize his vehicle is out of control until he is already going very fast. He doesn't know which choice is best; to continue on or to come to a forced stop. A few seconds of indecision puts him past the point of no return. He no longer has a choice, but must face the reality of death. If you pass the point of no return, then what? Facing death when you are unprepared will fill you with fear. As a sinner, you will realize you need help, but you are completely unable to help yourself. Only by God's mercy can your soul be saved; it may become too late to seek salvation.

The farther you travel away from God, the harder it is to obtain His help. When the Spirit speaks to you, then is the moment of decision. You must not take a lot of time in deciding what to do, for "now is the day of salvation." During your indecision, Satan is still pulling you away from God toward death. You have no guarantee that you can put off accepting Christ, then do it at the last moment to escape eternal death. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation." Hebrews 2:3a.

Don't be a runaway from God. He has warnings out for your safety, but they are worthless to you if you don't obey them. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also

reap." Galatians 6:7. "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." II Corinthians 6:2b. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," but salvation through Christ is available now, this day. Joshua said, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." It doesn't pay to wait, for God's Spirit will not always strive with man. Genesis 6:3.

"But the way of transgressors is hard." Proverbs 13:15b. "Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none." Ezekiel 7:25. The transgressor has much sorrow, uncertainty, and many burdens to bear; there is no one to help. Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28. Only in Christ can we have peace, rest, and safety. Only in Him can we have eternal life. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23. God will give you life if you want it. Will you stop running away from Him and seek Christ now?

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

QUEEN ESTHER'S GREAT COURAGE

Part 9

The thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month called Adar, was the day Haman had devised for the execution of his enemies, the Jews. The tables were now turned; and the Jews, now, devised a battle against their enemies. The Jews' enemies were the aggressors. But through the powerful influence enlisted on their side at court, together with the blessings of God, they were everywhere victorious. Had they acted separately - each family alone - they would have been an easy prey for their enemies. But the Jews gathered themselves in their cities throughout the provinces of King Ahasuerus.

The people of the provinces joined in with the Jews, which furthered their cause, because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them. He manifested the countenance both of God and the King. No man could withstand him. Mordecai was great in the king's house. His fame went throughout the whole province, as Mordecai became greater and greater.

On the thirteenth day of the month Adar, the Jews slew in the City of Shushan five hundred men, plus the ten sons of Haman. And on the fourteenth day they slew three hundred more, who had escaped the former execution. Of all the slain, they did not take anything of their spoil but left it for their women and children. Only the armed men were slain.

It is recorded in Esther 9:20-22 that Mordecai wrote the history, or the account, of all these things. Mordecai's style of writing is different from that of the other writers. The other writers take notice of the Divine Providence and that the great hand of God was upon them. But Mordecai never so much as mentioned the name of God in the whole story. Nehemiah wrote his book at Jerusalem where he was. Mordecai wrote his at Shushan, the palace, where policy reigned more than piety.

A festival was instituted to be observed yearly, from generation to generation, by the Jews in remembrance of this wonderful work, which God had wrought for them. It was instituted so children, that would be born, might know it and that they might set their hope in God. It was celebrated every year on the fourteenth and fifteenth of the twelfth month, just a month before the passover. It was called the Feast of Purim, from "pur" a persian word which means "lot", because Haman had by lot determined this to be the time of their triumph. It was not a Divine institution, therefore, it could not be called a holy day.

Mordecai and Esther confirmed it that it might be the more binding on posterity. Esther, being Queen, and Mordecai, being prime minister of the province, wrote with authority and yet with tenderness. It was to be observed as a memorial of the great things God had done for his people, so this remembrance might never perish from their seed. When Esther, the Queen, in peril of her life, came before the King, he repeated the edict. This also must be remembered. Good deeds done for the people of God ought to be remembered, to encourage others to do the same.

It was to be a day of generosity; sending portions to one another in token of mutual respect and a day of charity; sending gifts to the poor. Thanksgiving and almsgiving should go together. So when we are rejoicing and praising God, the hearts of the poor may rejoice with us.

This decree of Esther confirmed these words concerning Purim which were written in the book.

- To be continued

Brother Clarence R. Gehr
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Doubt sees the obstacle,
Faith sees the way;
Doubt sees a long dark night,
Faith sees the day;
Doubt dreads to take a step,
Faith soars on high;
Doubt thunders, "Who believes?"
Faith answers, "I."

THE COLOSSIAN LETTER

"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Col. 1:1-2.

No account is given here of the long journey of the faithful Epaphras from Colosse to Rome where Paul is thought to have been in prison. Perhaps it was hundreds of miles measured in footsteps and other hundreds in precarious sea voyages. The need of the Brethren in Colosse for the word of Apostolic authority was great and urgent. This precious letter, with the one to Philemon, was to bear precious fruit, not only in Colosse, but in an everwidening circle of blessing throughout the centuries.

Although, it had been twenty-five years or so, since the Church had been started at Jerusalem, Christianity was still a new religion. Without the New Testament Scriptures, the Holy Spirit guided the humble followers of Jesus to seek help from the Apostles in matters regarding the teaching of the Gospel.

Many people were seeking God away from the idol temples of that day. Many claimed to believe in Christ and also claimed new revelations concerning Him. In many of their claims the Deity of Christ was being attacked.

Instead of launching into religious debate, Paul greets them with "Grace and peace from God and from the Lord Jesus Christ." Faithful brethren everywhere would recognize these true and faithful words. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Christ's peace is His love gift to His own people, given in Great Grace.

God, as our Father, is the true teaching of Jesus, who taught His disciples to pray addressing God as our "Father who art in Heaven." Holy reverance surrounds this revealed basic truth. God as Father is mentioned by Jesus at least one hundred seventy times in the four Gosples. Paul in this short letter of ninety-five verses follows this same revealing pattern of reverantly speaking of the Father, twenty-two times.

We, as God's children, have to learn to reverance God in our speech. Careless and flippant talk of the Almighty is of the flesh and not of the Spirit of God. Much of today's humor is an attack on the reverance due Our Father in Heaven and His revealed Word. Our inner grace and outward testimony suffer when we encourage this desecration with a thoughtless laugh or smile. David, in his many and varied experiences, must have often faced this same problem and learned that he could not speak lightly of God. Ps. 111:9, ". . .holy and reverend is his name."

With the same reverance, Paul mentions "Jesus Christ" twenty-seven times in this letter, five times as "Lord" and in pronouns thirty-four times; making a total of eighty-eight times of speaking of God and Christ.

He speaks of the Holy Spirit once in verse 8. Here "Spirit" is used to describe the true love of the saints. Jesus had said of the Holy Spirit, ". . .he shall not speak of himself" - ". . .he shall take of mine and shall shew it unto you." - "He shall glorify me . . ." John 16:13-15.

In due reverance and by the Holy Spirit, Paul has great liberty to use "plainness of speech," as he introduces himself as "An Apostle of Jesus Christ by the Will of God." Paul's Apostleship here is connected with the Divine Will of God. God's Holy Will was being done in this man's life.

The human mind has great powers indeed, but can never encompass the Will of God. The fleshly mind rebels at this limitation. Simple faith in God's revealed Word calls for an humble heart and mind to receive and believe. Paul with a few strokes of his pen covers a vast field of revealed Truth here. His calling and Apostleship challenges our acceptance. If it is not accepted, Divine light from the Word is refused and doubts of God and His revealed Word arise to darken the heart and mind.

Jesus taught by word and example to revere and exalt the Will of God; always bowing before it, always praying for it to be done on earth as it is done with thee in Heaven.

Timothy is introduced with one of the most expressive words in all languages, "Brother." Jesus had forseen the value of this word in His Church. Matt. 23:8, "But be not ye called Rabbi; for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren." It is a leveling word, but also enobling and signifying a common interest and bond of love. With its accompaning term "Sister," it has traveled with the Church through the long centuries, expressing heart love and mutual faith in Christ. It is a word of much tenderness and also of unifying strength.

Paul addresses the brethren and sisters in Colosse as "Saints and faithful brethren in Christ." The word "Saints" has suffered much by mishandling through the centuries. So much so, that we can hardly use it as Paul did. It is a heart word denoting a true work of God's Grace within the soul, first and last "IN CHRIST." Those addressed would know if indeed it applied to them. Water baptism in those days marked the time of openly receiving Christ. Sainthood in Christ, implies that Christ had also received them, had forgiven all sin and that they were already His own.

"Faithful brethren in Christ" goes farther, taking into account each loving endeavor for Christ. Epaphras, evidently, gave many loving examples, with happy details, of tender, blessed ministries of these brethren and sisters in Christ.

The Apostle's heart was warmed as his love was enlarged to include these precious "sheep of Christ's Flock" in his own charge and care.

A high point is reached here in Paul's own ministry. It is the unfolding

of a long concealed mystery. "Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." Col. 1:26-27.

- James D. Cover
1225 East Morris, Modesto, Calif. 95350

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Part 32

Prayer is a key to the Portals of Heaven. A key locks and unlocks. A little key can unlock a door large enough to walk through or a door large enough to drive a huge truck through. A small key or combination will open a large vault. Keys play a very important role in our present day lives. With so much vandalism around, most of us lock up as secure as we can when we leave our homes.

In Matt. 16:19, Jesus told Peter, "And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. . ." An interpretation of this portion of scripture is that Peter opened the door of salvation to the Jews as recorded in Acts 2, and, later, to the Gentiles as recorded in Acts 10. Prayer is the "Master Key" to the bounties of God, both temporal and spiritual. Matt. 21:22, "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, BELIEVING, ye shall receive." Here, we have two keys to having our needs met: PRAYER AND FAITH. It is through the medium of prayer that we ask God to fulfill our needs. It is through faith in Him and in His ability to meet our needs, that our prayers are answered. We limit God by our lack of faith. Mark 11:24 gives us the same thought. "Therefore, I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

We read in Matt. 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." We receive not because we ask not. God wants us to feel our dependence on him. We are not self-sufficient, We lack. We need. Once, we realize these facts, we are more apt to pray more often.

John the Baptist tells us in John 3:27, "A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." James 1:17 sums it up nicely, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

One key that does not open God's warehouse is selfishness. James

4:3, "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Such prayers go unanswered.

Another key to answered prayer is, if it be according to God's will. We should make that stipulation a part of every prayer. James, in chapter 4, verse 15 says, "For that ye ought to say, if the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

Have you ever wondered why God does not answer all your prayers? You might pray for a sick loved one. You might pray for a certain individual that he might accept Christ. You might pray for peace among nations. But it may not be His will. If it is not the Lord's will to answer our prayers, we must have faith that He knows best.

In closing, I wish to refer to an old adage, "TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER AND LEAVE IT THERE."

- Brother Paul R. Myers
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630

O, TASTE AND SEE

Many of the greatest lessons in life are learned by the experiences we have with little children. We learn what it is to trust and obey from their simple actions. This was brought to my mind as I read Psalms 34:8, "O, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that trusteth in him."

When we, as mothers, prepare a new dish and set it before our family, what is the first thing we say to the child who is doubtful about it? "Taste it and see; you will like it." Before the child will do this he must trust his mother's advice. Then in simple faith he picks up his fork and takes a very small portion. He rolls it around in his mouth and, to his astonishment, finds it very yummy and immediately, asks for more.

This in reality, is what the Psalmist is telling us. Through faith, taste the Word of God; and you will see that the Lord is good. Our appetite will be whetted to the point, we can not stop eating; it will become our daily bread. As He begins to satisfy the hunger of our souls, our lives will change. We become sick of our old lives; our hunger for the world and its pleasures will leave. We will want to eat only the things of God. Through His Word and the acceptance of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, peace will come to our souls. In the natural life, we eat until we are satisfied; but we must eat again and again to maintain our health. So it is in the spiritual, God's Word will satisfy; but we must continue eating to maintain spiritual health.

If you have a hunger in your soul and you have found nothing in this life to satisfy it, taste and see through the Lord Jesus Christ that He is good; and your hunger will be satisfied.

O, taste and see that the Lord is good,
My Saviour said to me,
Give up your worldly pleasures,
And walk alone with me.

I've tasted sin and folly,
And disappointment came my way
I know the pain of sorrow
That in Satan's pathway lay.

I know the lonely feeling
That's in a sinner's heart,
To even feel that no one cares
To have my friends depart.

But, oh the joy that came to me
To know there is one who cares
Who called me out of deep despair
And His salvation share.

O, taste and see that the Lord is good,
Is my plea for you today,
Yield your life, your all to Him
He'll go with you all the way.

- Sister Lucille Throne
Alvordton, Ohio 43501

PROPHECY AND FULFILLMENT

Prophecy: Isa. 8:14-15, And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken.

Fulfillment: I Peter 2:6-8, Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious; but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient; whereunto also they were appointed.

Prophecy: Prov. 26:11, As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

Fulfillment: II Peter 2:22, But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Prophecy: Ezekiel 3:3, And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee, then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. Another prophecy for the same event: Ezekiel 2:8-10, But thou, son of man, hear what I say unto thee; Be not thou rebellious like that rebellious house; open thy mouth, and eat that I give thee. And when I looked, behold, an hand was sent unto me; and, lo, a roll of a book was therein; And he spread it before me; and it was written within and without; and there was written therein lamentations, and mourning, and woe.

Fulfillment: Rev. 10:10, And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey; and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

- Conclusion

Brother W. E. Bashor
867 Lorna Dr., Glen Ellen, Calif. 95442

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Lord willing, Pleasant Home, California will have revival meetings March 21 through March 28. Elder Paul Reed will be the evangelist.

We extend a special invitation to all of our members and friends to be with us at this time.

- Sister Esther M. Cover, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation plans to hold revival meetings March 14 through March 28. Bro. Fred Pifer, Dallas Center, Iowa, will be the evangelist.

We invite all who can, to come and enjoy these services with us.

- Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

BRYAN, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation plans their revival meetings beginning March 14 through 28. Bro. Virgil Leatherman as our evangelist. Closing with a Love Feast. Services beginning Saturday morning March 27th at eleven o'clock, with afternoon service at two o'clock. Communion service Saturday evening. Service on Sunday.

We send a welcome to all to come enjoy these services with us.

- Sister Ruth Kleinhen, Cor.

OBITUARIES

EMMA L. KURTZ

Sister Emma Kurtz was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania, on January 7, 1889 and departed this life on December 4, 1975, at the Mt. Hope Dunkard Brethren Church Home, at the age of 86 years, 10 months and 27 days.

She was a daughter of the late Samuel and Mary Ann (Hummel) Grumbine.

She was united in marriage to Augustus B. Kurtz who passed away 5 weeks later on January 8, 1976. A son, Wayne, and two daughters; Mabel, wife of John L. Siegfried, and Elizabeth, wife of Carl Boyer, all of Myerstown, Route 3; fourteen grandchildren; twenty-nine great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, Daniel and Lee Grumbine, both of Myerstown, Route 2; and five sisters, Mrs. Lizzie Boyer, Lebanon; Mrs. Edith Daub, Myerstown, Route 4; Mrs. Edna Muth, Myerstown, Route 3; Mrs. Alice Maurer, Rexmont; and Mrs. Alma Fisher, Liberty Park, Pennsylvania also survive. A daughter, Verna, preceded her in death in 1948.

Sister Kurtz was baptized in the Church of the Brethren when young in years and joined the Dunkard Brethren around 1960. She enjoyed coming to church when she was able, but was confined to a wheelchair in her later years.

Funeral services were held December 8, 1975 at 1:30 p.m. from Clauser Funeral Home, Schaefferstown by Elder David F. Ebling, and Pastor Glenn Hassinger of the Myerstown Church of the Brethren.

Sister, thou wast mild and lovely,
Gentle as the summer breeze,
Pleasant as the air of evening,
When it floats among the trees.

Peaceful by thy silent slumber,
Peaceful in the grave so low;
Thou no more wilt join our number;
Thou no more our songs shalt know.

Dearest Sister, thou hast left us;
Here thy loss we deeply feel;
But 'tis God that has bereft us;
He can all our sorrows heal.

Yet again we hope to meet thee,
When the day of life is fled,
Then in heav'n with joy to greet thee,
Where no farewell tear is shed.

- S. F. Smith
Selected from the Brethren Hymnal

Interment was in Royer's Tulpehocken Cemetery.

Although confined to a wheel chair for many years she kept her kindly Christian spirit. We will miss her greatly.

AMY N. BROSS

Sister Amy N. Bross was born March 21, 1901, in Lebanon County, and departed this life at the Mt. Hope Dunkard Brethren Church Home, on November 20, 1975, at the age of 74 years, 7 months and 29 days. She was a daughter of the late Harvey F. and Katie (Kline) Houser.

She was married to Silas B. Keller in 1920 who preceded her in death in 1926. To this union were born four children.

On November 12, 1932 she was united in marriage to Samuel B. Bross. Four children came to bless this union.

In addition to her husband, she is survived by the following children; Ada, wife of Charles Bross, Lebanon, Route 1; Ruth, wife of Kenneth Wilderson, Chambersburg, Route 1; Naomi, wife of Ralph Patches, Lebanon, Route 5; Jacob Bross, Lebanon, Route 2; Anna, wife of Dwayne Wise, Chambersburg, Route 5; Eva, wife of Robert Stenger, Shady Grove, and Caleb Bross, Myerstown; two step-children; twenty eight grandchildren; a sister, Lena, wife of Landis Hitz, Lebanon, Route 1 and a brother, Miles Houser, Lebanon, Route 5. One son, Silas and one step-son, John preceded her in death.

Sister Bross was baptized in the Church of the Brethren at the age of 16 and united with the Dunkard Brethren around 1960.

Funeral services were held November 24, 1975 at the Bethel Dunkard Brethren Church, Frystown House by Elder James Kegerreis, Brother David Kegerreis and Elder David Ebling. Interment was at Midway Church of the Brethren Cemetery.

Truly our loss is Heaven's gain.

If you're not as close to God as you once were, you can be very sure which one of you has moved.

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HAS SOMEONE SEEN CHRIST IN YOU TODAY

Has someone seen Christ in you today?
Christian, look to your heart, I pray,
The little things you have done or said -
Did they accord with the way you prayed?
Have your thoughts been pure and your words been kind?
Have you sought to have the Saviour's mind?
The world with a criticizing view
Has watched - but did it see Christ in you?

Has someone seen Christ in you today?
Christian, look to your life, I pray,
There are aching and blighted souls
Being lost on sin's destruction shoals,
And perhaps of Christ their only view
May be what of Him they see in you.
Will they see enough to bring hope or cheer?
Look to your light! Does it shine out clear?

- Anonymous
Selected by Sister Eileen Broadwater

GOD'S CREATION

When a man wishes to construct anything, he must use components that already exist. Whether it is a carpenter building a house, a contractor building a super highway, an autoworker building an automobile, a scientist formulating a new compound or a housewife baking a cake, the rule is the same. Something can not be made out of nothing. God was not restricted that way when He created this world. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb. 11:3. The things we see in this world, though they seem so permanent and solid, once were nothing. God did not need ingredients to bring forth His Creation. He had only to speak the word. It was instantly in existence just the way God wanted it.

A world, such as ours, demands that there must have been a Creator. A look at the intricacies of the human body shows a master plan behind its creation. It could not have been formed by chance or evolution. The laws governing the operation of our solar system are so precise that they could not have been developed by chance, only by the Creator. There is a logic, a plan, a law in our world and its systems that could not have been set in motion by chance. Only by a Creator's Hand could it all have been created so perfectly and logically.

This creation is miraculous. It is beyond our understanding. We can only accept it by faith. It runs counter to our personal experience. We need ingredients; God did not. This is not God's only miracle. His greatest miracle was His Plan of Salvation. He sent His Son to die as a sacrifice for each individual's sins. It is a miracle that One Life, One

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California o5355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Little town, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 1740e

Death and One Resurrection so many centuries ago could be effective, yet, today to blot out our actual standing before God and to replace it with a child's relationship with God. Again, our faith must be employed to make this relationship ours. If we have faith enough to believe in His creative power, why should we not have enough faith to believe in His recreative power?

God created everything during His Week of Creation. The highest order of His creation was man. He gave man not only a body and a mind but also a soul. First, God made Adam from the dust. Then to make Adam complete, He removed one of his ribs, while asleep, from which He created Eve. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Gen. 1:27. Adam was not complete until Eve was presented as his helpmeet. Through the institution of marriage God provided for the union of two into one flesh. Though merged into oneness by marriage yet Adam and Eve each had his and her own duties and activities. God created humans, male and female. He intended for that distinction to be preserved.

We are living in a world which has forgotten its Creator. It is little wonder then that today's world also has blurred the God-given distinctions between men and women. God did not create Eve to be a mirror of Adam; He created her to complement him. She was to provide strength where he was weak and weakness where he was strong. Together they were to serve God.

The ways are many in which the distinction between men and women is being broken down. The clothes of many people today do not reveal their sex. Fashion designers are bringing forth "uni-sex" clothing for both men and women. These clothes are already the uniform of some Oriental nations. If a job or sport demands that a woman must put on clothing cut like a man's, it is a sin for her to participate in that work or sport. Deut. 22:5. The hair of many men today looks like that of a woman. Either it is worn long or it is curled. The hair of the man is to be cut short while the woman's is to be uncut and covered with the prayer veil. I Cor. 11:14-15. The desire of most women today is for a career. There is a desire to "escape" the home and the family. All types of work have been thrown open to women lately. These jobs beckon to draw them away from the care of their family. Prov. 31. Because of new jobs, more money and weakening morality, a shift has taken place in the relationship between husband and wife. No longer are women content

to submit to their husbands as God intended. They want equality or even dominance. Eph. 5:33.

When God created the world, He built in certain laws so it would run smoothly. When He created mankind, He created the male and the female and put certain distinctions between them. He intended that these distinctions would endure, the same as the other laws He put in His Creation. Are God's laws operating in your life?

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Part 33

One of the secrets to ANSWERED PRAYERS is being specific in what we pray for. It is interesting, when waiting for answers, to see just how God responds. We, too often, pray in generalities. We want everything at once. We want God to give us the entire world in one request. God could answer that way, but seldom does He choose to.

Vague praying is lazy praying. We might pray for all the missionaries, the world around. That might seem like a plausible prayer. I believe the Bible teaches, it is better to single out one missionary or one request at a time. It takes time to pray. To render an acceptable prayer, we should give it forethought. We should not try to pray on a wholesale basis.

Let me illustrate, by Scripture, my thought.

The man who was working on his friend at the midnight hour did not ask for bread in a general way. He was specific. He asked for three loaves. Luke 11:5. He needed three loaves. That is the number he asked for. Jesus teaches, in verse 8, that he was given as many as was needed. He was specific in his request; and his prayer was answered.

Jesus gave us an example of specific prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Matt. 26:39, "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O, my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." The most pitiful incident in the whole sorrowful story of Jesus' suffering was that night in Gethsemane. How He prayed! Three times for the same specific purpose. He did not broaden out in making many requests. His only request was that the cup of suffering might pass from Him. But, God, knowing His plan of Salvation, did not answer this tripled prayer.

In John 4:45-51, we have another example of a petition to Christ, specifically, for one purpose only. When Jesus came again to Cana, He was met by a certain nobleman whose son was ill. They lived in Capernaum. The nobleman asked Jesus to come to Capernaum and heal his son. He asked nothing more. Verse 48, "Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe." In verse 49, the

nobleman again said, "Sir, come down ere my child die." He did not ask anything for himself. Nor did he make many requests. Just, that his son might be healed. Jesus answered him, "Go thy way; thy son liveth." The very, single thing that the nobleman petitioned Christ for, he received.

The leper prayed for a healing. He did not ask for food, or a more comfortable home. He did not ask for many things, just for cleansing and healing. He received it.

Zacharias asked God for a son. He did not ask for several children. He did not ask for health, or bounties - only for a son. God answered his prayer, as recorded in Luke 1:13, "But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias; for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."

- Brother Paul R. Myers
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630

LACK OF FELLOWSHIP

"...and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise." Matthew 22:5b.

One of the greatest problems that churches face today is that there is no communion, no fellowship, and no real love between the members anymore. The devil has used the fast pace and independence of today's modern society to destroy churches all over the world. As everybody, today, buys more goods and requires less help from his neighbor, there is less give and take, resulting in people becoming strangers to one another who were once friends. We ought to see our need for fellowship. It is greater today than ever before.

Hebrews 10:25 says, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Back when Paul wrote this, there were some already departing from the faith by neglecting their fellowship. Paul warns us that we should gather together more in this day rather than less, because our very salvation may depend on it. The next verse starts out, "For if we sin. . .," an indication that neglect of this duty is sin. Let us take this Scriptural admonition, apply it to our heart; and let the Lord have his way.

- Brother Lynn H. Miller

CLENCHED FISTS

'I don't need you, God. I can take care of myself; and I'm good enough the way I am. I'm enjoying life; and besides, I won't go to Church where all those hypocrites are. I don't want to be like them; and you'll not find me there. No, God, not me!" Did you ever talk to God that way? You didn't? Oh, but did your life ever talk like that to God? Actions do speak louder than words, you know.

Maybe you never talked so disrespectfully to God; but how about to your parents? "I don't need you, Mom and Dad. I can handle myself. I know what I want; and your ideas are too old-fashioned. I won't listen to you anymore about God; going to Church is for old people. Besides, Brother Deacon irritates me. He says he's trying to help me; but really, he is just being nosy and picky." Does this describe how you act? If it does, there is rebellion in your heart.

Recently in a news magazine, there were pictures of a young woman handcuffed to a policewoman. Her free arm was raised in a clenched-fist salute to some observers. Another woman, also under arrest, had her hands shackled together, yet she managed to raise both fists in salute. A clenched fist is a sign of rebellion. It indicates a desire to force others to accept your principles as right, no matter how wrong or selfish they are. Its source is self and Satanic control; rebellion is not of God.

Have you ever raised your fist and shook it in God's face? How foolish it must look to Him to see such rebellion from one who is so helpless! The two young women were shackled both by handcuffs and by sin. They were powerless, yet there was no sign of remorse or sorrow even for being caught. Are you like this? Or is there sorrow in your heart, when you realize you have sinned?

It is painful to look at ourselves as we are before God; black with sin, with no way of our own to become clean. We need Christ's blood applied to our hearts to make us "as white as snow." "And the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin." I John 1:7b. If you are still shackled by sin, you need Christ's cleansing. This is the only way you can be free from the power of sin. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

It is extremely foolish to rebel when we are shackled and powerless. It is also tragic. As long as Satan has a hold on us, we are shackled; and the only way to be set free is through Christ. He has already paid for our sins, but His sacrifice does us no good until we accept Him personally as our Saviour and Lord. To continue rebelling leaves no choice but for us to pay for our own sins.

Sometimes, criminals are sorry when they get caught; then, when set free, they go right back to a life of crime. There is no repentance, which is sorrow for, and turning away from sin. Sin causes suffering; it also robs you of real peace because it separates you from God. When you

are suffering because of your sin, you may be sorry until the pressure is off. Then you return to the same path of sin, only to suffer again and again. If you will not admit your need, when you have seen your sin-filled heart, you can't receive any help. "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Psa. 66:18.

When a prisoner is sorry and throws himself on the mercy of the court, the sentence is usually lighter. Rebellion and a disrespectful attitude bring the maximum penalty. If you, as a prisoner of Satan, will throw yourself on God's mercy, the sentence of death can be removed. But if you continue to clench your fists and rebel, the full penalty (eternal death) will be imposed. If you don't want mercy, God will not force it on you!

The publican prayed, "God be merciful to me a sinner." He didn't even raise his eyes toward Heaven, for he saw himself as God sees all of us. He knew he had no goodness within; and he didn't pretend that he did. He simply and humbly asked for mercy; and Jesus said, "...this man went down to his house justified rather than the other."

The Pharisee was just the opposite. He prayed "with himself," not really to God. He thought he was so good that he needed nothing; and that's just what he received. He went home still shackled, still refusing to ask for mercy. In effect, he shook his fists in God's face because he wouldn't admit that only God could make him good. See Luke 18:10-14.

God promises no mercy to the rebellious heart. If you are clenching your fists in rebellion, you are refusing the only mercy available. But if you admit you are a sinner, salvation can be yours. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9. Will you accept His cleansing now?

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

QUEEN ESTHER'S GREAT COURAGE

Part 10

After the wicked man, Haman, was put out of the way, Mordecai grew more in favor and loyalty with King Ahasuerus. Also the beautiful Queen Esther was drawn closer by the King.

Mordecai and Esther confirmed their resolve, that the feast that was made; the feast of purim, might be binding on posterity. It was decreed with authority and yet with tenderness, by Esther the Queen and Mordecai the Prime Minister of the province.

King Ahasuerus grew more powerful. He ruled over a great dominion both on the continent and among the islands of the sea, from which he raised a vast revenue. The King's powerful servant, Mordecai, became the second in power and authority.

How great and how good Mordecai was. He had been sitting at the King's gate a long time. Now he was advanced. The declaration of the greatness to which the king advanced him was recorded in the chronicles of Kings of the Media and Persia. He was great among the Jews. Yet, very respectful to all people. He did not disown his people, the Jews, though they were strangers and captives, dispersed and despised. Even then he wrote of himself as Mordecai the Jew.

He did not seek wealth for himself nor an interest in a great estate. All his power, his wealth and all his interest were to the King and Queen. He improved for the people's good. He did not favor one party above another. In whatever differences there were among them, he was a common peacemaker to them all.

So, was Mordecai, the Jew, who was formerly despised and condemned to die. But by the great providence of God and the courage of Esther, the Queen, he had now risen to be a great and powerful favorite to the King and all men.

This concludes this series on the story of Esther. Throughout the whole book, she shows her great concern for her people, the Jews. With great fear and trembling, she went before the King with the burden on her heart for their lives. It took courage to go in before the King, uncalled. It could have cost her, her life, for the law stated that if someone went before the King, uncalled, they would be killed. But Esther's great determination to speak to the King made her risk her life.

She said, "and so will I go in unto the King, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish." I cannot loose my life in a better way.

- Brother Clarence R. Gehr
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

SOMEONE CARED

Because someone cared and loved the Doctrines and Principles of Christ enough, to cherish, love, and obey them and teach them from generation to generation, the Church grew. Jesus said, ". . .and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt. 16:18. This was a promise.

Alas, the devil gathered his forces and put them to work, through evil men, to destroy the work of the Church. A battle between right and wrong continued. He introduced false teaching; infant baptism, in place of trine immersion; doing a kind deed for someone, instead of the true commandment of "washing one another's feet." The feet washing is a true cleansing of the soul, done before the Lord's Supper, the fellowship meal, which we eat looking forward to Christ's coming again.

The Bread and Cup of Communion is all that most obey. The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, said, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;. . ." II Cor. 13:5. Living a simple life, ". . .not to think of

himself more highly than he ought to think," and living an humble life, ". . not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts...," is not considered necessary by the false teachers.

During the Reformation there was a desire to return to the true Faith and teachings of Christ. The Bible was studied with a sincere desire to re-establish that faith. We, who love history, know how this was done. Many people have shared this faith through the years. For 200 years the Church grew and multiplied; souls were converted to Christ.

Again, the evil spirit sought to destroy this work, by getting people to doubt the Word. "Is it true?" "Does God really expect us to live such a dedicated life?" Once again, some followed the voice of the false way.

Because someone cared and loved the Church of Christ enough to think and pray, they wrote helpful messages to re-establish the true Faith. In October, 1922, the first "Bible Monitor" was printed by Elder B. E. Kessler of Poplar Bluff, Missouri. A Monitor is a medium by which an admonition is carried, defending the Gospel.

Praise God for all this! Now, let us look for our challenge to continue to serve.

Because someone cared, we have mission work. Jesus said, "Launch out into the deep.." Luke 5:4. It is nice to stay on the beach (self-contentment) where the sand is soft and warm, but no fish are there. The best ones are out in the deep water. Jesus also said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations..." Matt. 28:19. Several have left their homes and occupations to go and teach and preach, where the waters are deep and, sometimes, rough. God bless them.

What about our smaller congregations? They too need our presence in worship and our help to strengthen them in the Faith. We are to be workers together in Christ Jesus, each in his appointed place.

We can also serve by being present in worship, when the first song is sung. If we miss out on that, we have already missed half the blessing of attending. Let us show our love for Christ in the right manner.

Because someone cared, we have a Church Home in the First District. Having had the privilege of doing volunteer work there, I know the "Home" is doing a noble work in caring for the ills and sufferings of those less fortunate than we. Jesus said, ". . .Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25:40b. This is a real challenge and opportunity for all the members, the young people as well as the elderly, to serve.

There I saw many "jewels;" those rich in Faith and Love. My soul is rejoicing because of them and my experience with them. In giving, and caring, there is a rich reward.

In conclusion, may each of us resolve to be true to our Creator. Be a true witness for Christ, wherever you go. Lend a helping hand to the work. Then it will continually prosper till Christ comes for His Bride.

- Sister Sylvia E. Parker
5290 W. St. Rt. 718, Troy, Ohio 45373

CHILDREN'S PAGE

GOD SPEAKS TO MOSES

Exodus 19

Would you like God to speak to you so you could actually hear His voice? This would be a wonderful thing. God talked to many who are mentioned in the Bible; but God talked with Moses many times. God talked with Moses from the burning bush, He talked with him about the plagues that He brought upon Egypt; before and after Israel crossed the Red Sea, God spoke to Moses. Three months after they left Egypt, the children of Israel came close to a large mountain called Mt. Sinai, or it is sometimes called Mt. Horeb. Near this mountain was a large plain where they pitched their tents. Mt. Sinai was a very important mountain, for here God spoke to Israel and gave them the Ten Commandments.

At this time Moses went up unto God; and the Lord called unto him out of the mountain. Moses was to tell the people, if they obeyed God and kept His covenant, that they would be a special people of the Lord and He would bless them. They would be a kingdom of priests and an Holy Nation.

When Moses told the people what God had said; they replied, "All that the Lord hath spoken we will do." Moses returned to God; and He told Moses to have the people to be sanctified and to wash their clothes, for on the third day the Lord would come down in sight of all the people on Mt. Sinai.

On the third day, there was thunder and lightning and a thick cloud upon Mt. Sinai and the sound of a trumpet, so loud that all the people in the camp trembled with fear. Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God. Mt. Sinai was on fire and smoked like the smoke of a furnace; and the whole mountain shook like in an earthquake. The Lord said unto Moses, "Go down, charge the people, lest they break through unto the Lord to gaze and many of them perish."

God told Moses that he and Aaron should come up unto the Lord, but not the people. So Moses went down and spoke to the people; and Aaron and Moses went up unto the Lord.

God is Holy and powerful. The children of Israel had not trusted God completely. They had complained and sinned against God in many ways. Moses and Aaron had obeyed God; and God protected them even though they came near unto Him. God does not like sin any more now than He ever did. We cannot take our sins along to Heaven. Jesus died on the cross so that we could have our sins forgiven. How thankful we should be that God loved us so much - "that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

- Brother Rudy Cover

At the wedding in Cana of Galilee the best wine came last. This was because Jesus made it. But with Jesus it was the best all the while. He never preached a poor sermon. He made no mistake in any of the miracles He performed. One was just as well done as the other. When He made bread and fish for the five thousand the people had not a word of complaint about the food He furnished them. They never ate better bread and probably never tasted better fish. Then, too His life was the highest type. His conversation was no one His equal in all the world. And so it was with the religion He taught. It was the best then, and is the best yet.

- Selected from Our Saturday Night

NEWS ITEMS

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Church has decided on the third Saturday of March as their set date for Love Feast meeting except on Easter. Come and worship with us.

- Sister Ethel Whitmer, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Goshen Congregation, Goshen, Indiana, will be having a Spring Lovefeast, April 10.

- Sister Maxine Swihart, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Come and be with us. The Dallas Center, Iowa, congregation plans Spring meetings on April 3 and 4.

Services will begin at 10:45 Saturday morning, with Lovefeast in the evening at 7:30. All day services on Sunday.

We desire an interest in your prayers.

- Sister Juanita Reed, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The District Meeting of Third District will be held at Grandview, April 10, 11, 12. We will also have our Spring Lovefeast and Communion then instead of on our regular set date.

There will be services on Saturday the 10th beginning at 11:00 with Lovefeast in evening at 7:30, also service all day Sunday with District Meeting proper on Monday.

Come, worship with us.

- Sister Bertha E. Jarboe, Cor.

THANK YC

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Brethren, Sisters and friends for their prayers, visits, cards and gifts since my accident and also for my birthday. May God richly bless each one.

- Sister Margaret Dayhoff

THANK YOU

I want to thank the many who remembered me in prayer and by other ways of kindness, during the time of my leg injury.

- Brother Harold Dennis

OBITUARY

PEARL WERTZ

Pearl Adeline Wertz was born in McWillie, Oklahoma on June 10, 1912, to Thomas Christian Root and Mary Eulalah Root Nichols. She lived most of her childhood years in the area of Elk City, Oklahoma. The family moved to the McClave, Colorado area in December of 1927.

She accepted Christ as her personal Saviour and was received into the Dunkard Brethren Church at McClave in 1933. The sincere concern for others, her devoted interest in Christ and the Church made her an active witness, worker and Deacon's companion.

She was united in marriage to Richard J. Wertz of McClave on March 18, 1928. This union was blessed with four children; Etta Pearl Clayton of McClave, Ivon Richard Wertz also of McClave, Wanda Fern Lutz of Columbus, Nebraska, and Leonard Duane Wertz of Colorado Springs, Colorado. She is also survived by sixteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Surviving in addition are one sister, Mrs. Aurelia Wertz of McClave, and two brothers, Tom Root of Canon City and Don Root of McClave. She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, Joe Root.

The week before Thanksgiving 1975, she suffered a severe heart attack and was hospitalized at the La Junta Medical Center. She was released before the Christmas holidays and remained at home where she was taken Home to our Lord on the evening of January 3, 1976. Her age at passing was 63 years, 6 months, and 24 days.

"A NEW HOME..."

The Mansion where you are staying
Has walls of most precious stone
With twelve foundations, each one special
That God has built, alone.

I hope that there are flowers there
Along the golden streets
The trees so tall and beautiful
The rain they'll never need.

The beautiful music that you will hear
Is like nothing you've ever heard
Praise the Lord, we'll hear it too, someday
If we obey the Holy Word.

In memory of our Granny
Written by a Granddaughter,
Sister Loretta Morian

Funeral services were held at the McClave Dunkard Brethren Church on January 6, 1976 at 10:30 a.m. with Elder Dale Jamison and Elder Warren Smith officiating. Burial was in the McClave Cemetery.

EULOGY TO OUR MOM - FROM THE CHILDREN

Having a Godly Mom has been a lesson to us from the very start of life...Early in childhood we learned to love Jesus and were read Bible stories on her knee. We learned to sing the "old, old story" and in the arms of a loving Mother were taken to church to learn "more about Jesus." She gave us her love, her energy, her motivation, her all. A smile, even when she was ill...and she did suffer many times...assured us that all was well.

As we grew, we experienced SO MUCH love and happiness! She taught us that love was sharing, that living was rewarded in giving, and most of all that love was the key to a happy heart.

Our memories take us back to a big farm house ... the smell of a special meal being prepared for us with tender care. So much is lost today because so many families do not share these special family times at meals. It is like yesterday we remember, "now bow your heads. . . "Lord, bless this food, and make us good, for Jesus sake, Amen." We

were learning to pray...to communicate with the One who allowed us to be under her care.

Never was there too little time to kiss away a tear or even to help us bury a frog that might have unexpectedly found its way under the wheel of a car.

Christmas...our hearts full of anticipation...and unforgetable times for us...when we were taught the REAL meaning of love sent down to us in the form of a lowly babe, Jesus, and where we learned to share with each other the gifts, each selected with care. To watch Mom on these special days, her heart bursting with joy and eyes lighted with excitement...giving, giving, giving...and we children receiving and learning more and more how she sacrificed for us.

Then there were those times when we were in school; special moments at special activities...encouragement in times of indecision and disappointment. "Never give up Len; keep on trying Ivon; you can do it Wanda; give it your all Etta. Just pray and do your best!" What encouragement and what an example for us!

In this environment, made for us by a special Mom and a loving Pop, we learned to face our every day activities now as adults. We now have children and grandchildren and they, too, have been blessed with exposure to this person who was to bring all of us so much joy. "Granny" was everything we'd expect her to be! How can we express so deep love for someone who has given so much?

Not a word of bad about anyone...she shared with us her love for neighbors and friends and instilled in us a feeling of confidence in our fellow man.

And now, tears of sadness flow and our hearts ache as we face life without "Mom"..."Granny!" Our sadness is turned to happiness only in knowing that she must surely have a special place in God's Heaven. Yes, she many times pondered and verbalized the reward of a Christian life, and this is our heritage.

Life holds many blessings, but there are very few as precious as the blessing of a loving mother...our "Mom"...now in His care...a new flower for the Master's bouquet.

THANK YOU

The family of Sister Pearl Wertz, of the McClave congregation, expresses our most sincere thanks to all the dear Brothers and Sisters in

Christ for your prayers and cards during her illness. She appreciated them so very much. Again, for the prayers, flowers, cards, and other loving kindnesses extended to us at her death, we thank you and pray God's richest blessings be upon you. We praise the Lord for your Christian love and charity.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL

April 4 - A Covenant to Walk in God's Law. Neh. 10:28-39

April 11 - Separation and Reformation. Neh. 13:1-31

April 18 - The Resurrection. John 20:1-31

April 25 - The Queen of Persia Deposed. Esther 1:1-22

QUESTIONS:

(1) What two things are necessary to enter into a covenant to walk in God's law? Neh. 10:28.

(2) Why were the Ammonites and the Moabites forbidden to come into the congregation of God forever? Neh. 13:2

(3) Why did Nehemiah institute such drastic reforms in the priesthood of Israel? Neh. 13:29.

(4) What was the important thing that Thomas understood when he met Jesus after the resurrection? John 20:28.

(5) Why do you suppose Queen Vashti refused to obey King Ahasuerus when he commanded her to show the princes and the people her beauty? Esther 1:10.

THREE GRACES
In I Thessalonians, Chapter 1

Work of Faith - Turned to God. Verses 3, 9.
Labor of Love - Serve the Living God. Verses 3, 9.
Patience of Hope - Wait for the Son. Verses 3, 10.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR APRIL 1976

COME

Memory Verse John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Thur. 1 - John 13:1-38
Fri. 2 - John 14:1-14
Sat. 3 - John 14:15-31

Memory Verse John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Sun. 4 - John 15:1-27
Mon. 5 - John 16:1-18
Tues. 6 - John 16:17-33
Wed. 7 - John 17:1-26
Thur. 8 - John 18:1-18
Fri. 9 - John 8:19-40
Sat. 10 - John 21:1-25

Memory Verse John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Sun. 11 - Acts 1:1-26
Mon. 12 - Acts 2:1-21
Tues. 13 - Acts 2:22-47
Wed. 14 - Acts 3:1-26
Thur. 15 - Acts 5:1-26
Fri. 16 - Acts 5:24-42
Sat. 17 - Acts 7:1-29

Memory Verse John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come.

Sun. 18 - John 20:1-31
Mon. 19 - Acts 7:30-60
Tues. 20 - Acts 8:1-25
Wed. 21 - Acts 8:26-40
Thur. 22 - Acts 9:1-22
Fri. 23 - Acts 9:23-43
Sat. 24 - Acts 10:1-24

Memory Verse Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

Sun. 25 - Acts 10:25-48
Mon. 26 - Acts 11:1-30
Tues. 27 - Acts 12:1-25
Wed. 28 - Acts 13:1-25
Thur. 29 - Acts 13:26-52
Fri. 30 - Acts 14:1-28

Memory Verse Acts 3:19 Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

Acts 10:33 Immediately therefore I sent to thee; and thou hast well done that thou art come. Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV APRIL 1, 1976 NO. 7

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LIFT YOUR GLAD VOICES

Lift your glad voices in triumph on high,..
For Jesus hath risen, and man shall not die;
Vain were the terrors that gathered around Him,
And short the dominion of death and the grave.

He burst from the fetters of darkness that bound Him,
Resplendent in glory, to live and to save:
Loud was the chorus of angels on high,-
The Saviour hath risen, and man shall not die.

Glory to God, in full anthems of joy;...
The being He gave us death cannot destroy:
Sad were the life we may part with tomorrow,
If tears were our birthright, and death were our end.

But Jesus hath cheered the dark valley of sorrow,
And bade us, immortal, to Heaven ascend:
Lift then your voices in triumph on high,...
For Jesus hath risen, and man shall not die.

- Henry Ware, Jr.

THE RESURRECTION

The Easter Season is again upon us. But in this age of diluted Christianity the truths of Easter are well-nigh forgotten. For most, Easter means a new hat, some colored eggs, a gift-bearing rabbit and a feast. This is not Easter; nor are the many other heathen-inspired appendages that have been tacked unto this day. Easter is a remembrance of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave that could not hold Him. Christ arose on the first day of the week so every Sunday is truly a remembrance of His Resurrection. What better way could be found than assembling together with those of "like precious faith" each Sunday to commemorate His Victory over us?

We have heard the "old, old story" repeated many times, but without its oft repetition we could not know of God's Son, given as our sin-sacrifice, or we might grow forgetful. We are reminded that:

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross, where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

His death was the cruelest and most-undeserved ever suffered in this old-world. But Praise God, our Lord and Saviour is not on that cruel cross. Nor is He in the tomb borrowed of Joseph of Arimathea. He broke the bonds of death, Hell and the grave. He is risen. He now sits on the Right Hand of the Father in Heaven.

During His short life span His earthy body faced the same troubles all men's bodies have faced. At the end of His forty day fast, He hungered and thirsted. He grew weary and sought rest whether in a storm-tossed

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

boat or a borrowed bed. He knew what it was to be either cold or hot. After His Resurrection, His body still had temporal needs. He turned in for a meal at Emmaus, He entered the Upper Room and ate of their meal, and He ate the fish of Peter and his fellow-fishermen by the sea shore. He was the same, yet He was different. In a few weeks He would be taken up from them to return to His Father's House to await the day when He will be sent forth the second time.

These thoughts about Jesus, His sacrificial-work on the Cross, His victory over Satan and His present work in Heaven may seem like fine words of theory. But His Resurrection is more than theory it should have a practical effect in our lives, not only on Easter, not only on Sunday, but every day. Without the power of His Resurrection in our lives, our lives are in vain. After His Resurrection, Jesus did not return to the grave but ascended to Heaven. He did not go back to that which preceded His Resurrection but He went to that better, that glorious, Home above. He gives us an example even here to follow. After we become Christians we are not to follow the ways of the old man (the grave) but the upward ways of the Resurrected Saviour.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him (God)..." We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God sent as the Virgin-born Babe, perfect in all His ways, still He suffered as a sinner to take our punishment for us, vicariously. Without our confession of Him as our Saviour and our Lord, all our good deeds lose their value.

"...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Our burden of sin that separates us from God must be repented of. It must be regarded as unpleasing to God and a barrier to our future bliss. This disobedience of God should sadden us and cause us to turn away from such soul-destroying ways.

"For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection." Our baptism by trine immersion represents the death of the old man in our lives. Baptism is a death and a burial (by water rather than earth) picturing Christ's death and burial. It is also our resurrection. As He came forth from the grave in victory, so we come forth from the liquid grave a new creature. With the Holy Spirit dwelling within, a new life is ours. We still have the same outward man but we are different.

Jesus did not go back to the grave after that Easter morn nor should we crave the pleasures, ideals or philosophies of the world of our old man. Jesus spent forty days with His disciples before returning to His Heavenly Home. We have an undetermined time to spend here before our Home-going. We need to use this time to the honor of the One who paid the price for our sins on Calvary. We need to yield ourselves to God to be His servants.

When Easter morn dawns this year will it have meaning beyond new

hats, colored eggs and a rabbit for you? Will it mean for you a remembrance of Christ's resurrection and your own resurrection in the likeness of His? If not; why not?

IF I BE LIFTED UP

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. Jesus was lifted up from the earth on a cross many years ago. On that cross, He gave His life for you and me. He paid the penalty for our sins, which opened the way for us to be forgiven and to receive eternal life. Jesus said He would draw all men unto Him, and He has, but some have refused to come. It is His love that draws them away from a life of sin unto salvation.

When Jesus is held up, there is a real drawing power, for there is saving power. He said He came to seek and to save that which was lost. He also said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink." John 7:37. Jesus offers something real, that which meets the need of the heart. As true believers, we must hold up the fact that it is Christ's blood which cleanses us from sin. And it is in His strength only that we can serve Him. "For without me, ye can do nothing." John 15:5b. No matter how much we want to be good, we would only fail without Christ helping us.

Satan lifts up many things before people's minds to draw them away from Christ, including himself. There is everything from Ouija boards to actual Satan worship to take your attention from the only true source of help, Christ our Saviour. Drugs are supposed to free your mind and give you new insights, but no one mentions the bad trips, suicides and other tragic side-effects when the mind is damaged. Yoga exercises are supposed to be good for your health, but the unnatural postures and mind concentration are part of a Hindu religious ritual.

With Christ supreme in your life, your mind will truly be free. The burden of sin will be gone and you will have peace in your heart, because you are at peace with God. Transcendental meditation, another mind-influencing technique imported from India, claims that man's greatest need is to be happy. It also lifts up man as being good, which isn't true. No person can truly be happy until his sins are washed away and he exalts Christ - not himself.

Our meditation should be according to Psalms 1:1-2, which honors God, not some man or philosophy or idol god. The Satan-promoted substitutes for Christ fascinate people, but they have no power to save. People want to get in on these things because they look like an easy way out. Satan wants us to believe that our good morals and charitable deeds makes us good enough to be saved without Christ. It is only his way of deceiving people and drawing them farther from God, thus getting

them more tightly in his grip. If our minds are on the good things of God (see Phil. 4:8), Satan cannot fill us with the things which exalt him.

In Matthew 7:24-27, the house built on the rock was strong and stable. The house built on the sand looked good until it was tested. Because it wasn't started right, it didn't amount to anything in the end. We are to build on the Rock, Jesus Christ, the only solid foundation for Christian living. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Christ Jesus." I. Cor. 3:11. When we start out right with Christ, the building (our lives) will be right. We will be lifting up Christ as the most important part of our lives. We will trust Him and do what He tells us to, not just what we think will get us by.

If people look at our lives, and see a conflict between what we profess and what we actually do, we had better wake up. This sort of living does not lift up Christ. If all people can see is us in the forefront and Christ in the background, we are holding up ourselves instead of Christ. Christ is the head of the body, His Church, which is all true believers. Believers are not the head of Christ! He is preeminent, or first, ahead of everything. "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." Col. 1:18. If you place any person, any organization, any creed or any other thing ahead of Christ, He does not have His rightful place in your heart and life.

Man is not good and cannot save himself, regardless of how much he thinks about it. No amount of ritualistic exercise can bridge the gap between man and God. Toying around in witchcraft and such-like only widens the gap. Merely being a Church member isn't the answer either. There is only one who can save and that is Christ. Salvation comes by faith in Him. How can any true believer lift up any thing or anyone but Christ as the answer to the needs of our hearts?

When Christ is held up before you, what will you do with Him? You can accept Him or reject Him. This choice will determine your destiny, Heaven or Hell. Which shall it be? "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life". John 3:14-15. Jesus has already been lifted up on the cross for the purpose of saving your soul. Will you believe in Him now?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1 Pioneer, Ohio 43554

Genuine heart service is always acceptable to God whether rendered in kitchen or cathedral.

HIS CHURCH

"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And GOD hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. I Cor. 12:27-31.

When was the church started? What Church? I admit, before I start that this is a controversial subject. Some say at Pentecost, some when Christ talked to Peter. Some say Catholicism is it; others claim when Martin Luther rebelled against Catholic rule. Isn't it time to search the Scriptures? Jesus said, "...they are they which testify of me."

The word "Church" has been all too commonly bandied about. There is too much talk these days about your Church, my Church and their Church, when all the while it is His CHURCH. Only insofar as individuals are born-again Christians, (Christ-like in words and actions, both) are they members of His CHURCH. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Cor. 3:16-17.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." Rev. 3:20. He stands patiently waiting. He does not kick the door. Which side of the door is Jesus on, in your life? He owns it. He bought it at Calvary. We are in danger of giving Him a hovel or a shack to dwell in here, yet expect a mansion over there. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." If we build with hay, wood or stubble, we are giving Him a shack to dwell in. He is preparing our mansions with gold, silver and precious stones. Is that a fair exchange? He died for us; we should live for Him.

God did not leave anything to chance. He wanted a working Church. Therefore, He (GOD) set the various members in the Church as He wants them. We sing: Lord, a little band, and lowly,

We are come to sing to Thee.

We mean it. God wants us to assemble ourselves together, so much the more, as we see that day (the end time) approaching. But, we cannot say, we must not say, that other little bands, and lowly, are not pleasing God in their worship services also. That is for God to say. His will be the final word.

The Apostles ended their letters often with, "Greet the Church that is in thy house," showing to me that individuals must live their Christian life at home, too. It was easily discerned who was the Church in their houses. Is it so in ours?

First things must be first. The foundation (Jesus Christ) is laid. A carpenter keeps on building. So does a Christian. "As new-born babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." The work of the Church is the strength of Faith, the perseverance of Hope and the endurance of Love.

Large crowds come seeking, some for the loaves and fishes and some for the Spiritual food. The Church is not a building but a people The Good Seed is sown. It is a seed that matures, that ripens and yields thirty, sixty, yes, even one-hundred fold, that is valuable to Jesus. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." One opens the door and invites Him in, then another and another; the seed takes root and grows abundantly. So many know who Jesus is, but they do not know Him. They have never met Him face to face in a personal aquaintance.

Each generation is given the choice. Each individual must choose: Christ or Barrabas? The Lord or the devil? There is no middle ground. This is one battle in which we cannot remain neutral. The devil would like to lull us into thinking with Pilate that, "I find no fault in this man (Jesus)" would be sufficient to free us from guilt. Pilate will stand condemned in the Day of Judgment. So will all who say, "Sure, Jesus was a good man." There is more, much more, than this required.

"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine; receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." II John 7-11.

Then: How careful ought we live,
With such religious fear,
Since we a strict account must give,
Of our behaviour here.

The thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians was put between the twelfth and fourteenth chapters for a purpose. In the twelfth, the outline is laid, the pattern is set, but He knew there would be divisions and strife. Therefore, that blessed Charity chapter follows to show us that here "we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face." Now, we know in part; then shall we know, even as also we are known. We must have fervent charity among ourselves and to others, for if the light that is in us be darkness, how great is that darkness.

The Church is made up of people, you and me, each one a part of the whole. I don't really know you and you don't really know me, but He knows us both. When He comes again, He will present it unto Himself a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. The

Apostle Paul asks, "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase." I Cor. 3:5-7.

Proofs from the scriptures: Acts 2:46-67, "And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple,...did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord ADDED to the Church daily such as should be saved."

Acts 5:14, "And believers were the more ADDED to the Lord, multitudes, both of men and women."

When the Church at Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch he exhorted them all to cleave, with purpose of heart, unto the Lord. "For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of Faith: and much people was ADDED unto the Lord." Acts 11:24.

Eph. 3:14-21, "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and the length and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 El Pomar Ave., Waterford, California 95386

CHARITY

I Corinthians 13:1-13

As we take up the notion to write on some subject that may possibly be of help to a reader, our mind is drawn to one of the greatest themes of the Bible. Love is emphatically a Christian term. The basis for our consideration is to be what has been known as "the love chapter." This chapter is admired for its elevated thinking and its fulness of true Christian spirit.

The use of the word "charity" has many different meanings, such as:

tolerance, almsgiving or love. Even the nature of Christian love needs to be explained. The source of Christian love is traced directly to God. "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." I John 4:16. Its true origin is in the nature of God, who is love.

The gift of the Father's love was the introduction of the Lord Jesus among men. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. Jesus' entire life was a revelation of love, in his earthly ministry.

The power and operation is in the Spirit of God. Love is listed first in the inventory of the fruits of the Spirit. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." Gal. 5:22-25. Love has to be exhibited. Love is superior to the supernatural gifts bestowed upon the Church in Paul's day.

After this consideration of the nature of Christian love, the source of Christian love and the excellency of Christian love, may we now go on in our study of these verses before us.

Verse 1. Love and talk. The impression is left that of all the "gifts" that men were endowed with, those Christians at Corinth most prized the gift of tongues. It must have been for this reason that the Apostle, first, compares this with the grace of love.

Paul used great intelligence when he told the Corinthians that love was a greater virtue than tongues. Love is greater than speech. Speech usually draws attention to one's self. Love goes forth to others. Speech is for the moment more dazzling to the sight of men, while love is more unnoticed and unadmired by the many people along life's pathway.

Love leads men and women to sympathize with one another, to minister to the needy, and to strengthen the weak. The great gift of speech without the grace of love was void of meaning in that day, and so shall it always remain. Too much of the speech of today is, as it was then, just a lot of noise but without meaning. A clashing gong is a shock to the senses that produces no good. Christian love manifested is a sweet satisfaction to the soul and a soothing and refreshing of the spirit, which is greatly needed by the Church and the world, today.

- To be continued

Brother Harley Flory
Rt. 4, Defiance, Ohio 43512

The best place to go when trouble comes, is to your knees.

ANSWERED PRAYERS

PART 34

In the seventeenth chapter of John, we have Jesus' prayer for the Church. It is a tender and touching prayer. It is a prayer for individuals and it is a prayer for the entire Church.

Christ, here, does pray for himself. In verse 9, Jesus also said, "I pray for them," meaning the disciples and those that make up His Church today. Thus, He prayed to the Father for Himself and for us.

Here he was praying for His own. He definitely stated that He prayed not for the world. He came to save the world, but His special interest was in those that believed on Him. Here He drew a definite destinction between those who are His and those who are not.

We find in studying the Scriptures that the adversary, the Devil, has all through time tried to defeat God's work, Christ's work and now our work. It would be an utter impossibility to number the prayers of the faithful that have been uttered to God for the benefit of the Church. Those prayers have prevailed to the saving of the Church.

Acts 12:1 reads, "Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church." He killed James, the brother of John, with a sword. He put Peter in prison. He delivered him to four quaternions (sixteen soldiers) to keep him in custody. But there was a greater power at work than the power, the soldiers possessed. There was a prayer meeting for Peter's release. God dispatched an angel, in answer to those prayers, who released Peter. God's will prevailed and the work of the Church went on.

Another turbulent time for the church is recorded in Acts 8 and 9. Stephen, the first Christian martyr, was stoned to death. He was a man of God. I believe the Church at that time was very disturbed.

In verse one of Acts 8 we read, "And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem." The word says, Saul, who later became Paul, "made havock of the Church." Havock means wide and general destruction.

Are we thankful that Jesus, foreknowing what would happen to the Church, prayed as He did?

Paul was aware of the problems the Church would face. Acts 20:29 states, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

There are more than one in the Church today because some devout father or mother prayed for an erring son or daughter. Many tears have dripped and run down the cheeks of a concerned Elder for waywards in the Church. God has heard and answered many of those prayers to the saving of the individual prayed for.

If you want your minister to preach more doctrine, deeper, more spiritual, soul-touching, heart-rending and God-fearing sermons, pray to God for him. God will answer because He has promised us, in His Word, that if we ask, we shall receive.

Today we are experiencing apostacy in the Church. There is a falling away. The scripture prophesies that there shall be a falling away. We see it in our day. The greatest weapon we have at our command to be true soldiers of Jesus Christ and to combat the wiles of Satan is PRAYER. Prayer changes things.

I am a great believer in our setting a certain time or allowing time out of each day's activities to PRAY FOR THE CHURCH. Why? Because Christ prayed for the Church. Holy men of old prayed for the Church. We certainly should pray for the only institution on earth whose sole reason for being is the saving of OUR SOUL.

Another reason to pray for the Church is that God hears and ANSWERS prayers.

Brother Paul R. Myers
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630

CHILDREN'S PAGE

ISRAEL FORGETS GOD

Exodus 31:18; 32:1-10

Have you ever done anything wrong? The children of Israel did many times. They forgot that God was the one who delivered them from Egypt and gave them food to eat and water to drink. Even their clothes and their shoes didn't wear out and were still good after forty years in the wilderness. (Deut. 29:5). But one time, especially, the people sinned against God in a way that displeased Him very much.

Moses was up in the mountain talking with God. God gave Moses two tables of stone that had The Ten Commandments on them, written with the finger of God. You can read The Ten Commandments in Exodus 20. Moses was up in the mountain with God a long time; after awhile the people began to doubt if he would ever return. They asked Aaron, Moses' brother, to make them gods which would go before them. They wanted something they could see like the Egyptians had. The children of Israel just couldn't seem to get their minds away from Egypt. They had been in Egypt so long that they thought and acted like Egyptians. They had forgotten God. Why Aaron went along with them, we can only guess - but he did. He told them to bring their gold earrings unto him; he melted the gold and made a golden calf. The earrings were made of gold

that the Egyptians had given them. The people said, "These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt."

Aaron built an altar, that he placed before the golden calf, and said, "Tomorrow is a feast to the Lord." How Aaron thought that the Lord would have anything to do with an idol, I don't know. He may have thought that he could appease the people in this way until Moses came back. The next day the people got up early and offered burnt offerings and they sat down to eat and rose up to play. They even took off their clothes and ran around naked! This doesn't seem like the way to worship God; does it? And it wasn't.

God looked down from the mountain and saw the children of Israel worshipping the golden calf. He spoke to Moses, "Go, get thee down; for thy people which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt have corrupted themselves." God also said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people; Now let me alone that I may consume and make of thee a great nation." Next time we will read how Moses prevented God from utterly destroying Israel.

How unthankful and unappreciative can people get? Do we as a People of God ever worship idols? No, of course not! That is, we don't make an image of gold like they did. But there are things that can become more important to us than God. Whenever we think more of our money, our homes, our automobiles or even a new bicycle, than we do of God, it becomes an idol unto us. God wants to be first in our hearts. Anything less than worshipping God with all our mind and soul and strength, becomes sin unto us. Let's not forget God.

Brother Rudy Cover

LOVE, A-FLOWING

Walk into a little room.
There's a candle glowing.
Is the room all filled with gloom?
No, there's light a-flowing.

Walk into a church house.
Is Christ's love a-glowing?
Or is the room all filled with gloom?
With hate and spite a-flowing.

Hide a candle under a bushel,
And soon it will go out.
Hide Christ's love from all to see
And soon your light is out.

Give your neighbor a kindly spoken word,
And soon there's love a-flowing.
Give your friend a harsh spoken word
And soon the hate comes rolling.

Is your love shown to all?
Or is it in a bushel hid?
Show Christ's love to one, to all
And soon there's love a-flowing.

Sister Mary Alice Skiles
Cuba, New Mexico 87013

FOR SALE

ONE CROSS NEARLY NEW. I cannot carry it and keep up with the world and its crowd.

ONE FIVE-PIECE SET OF ARMOUR. All pieces are in good shape, but do need polishing.

ONE BUNDLE OF CHRISTIAN OPPORTUNITIES. Contained in the bundle is one of the greatest opportunities in the world - that of going to church every Sunday. Another is the opportunity of being a soul winner. I seldom ever use these opportunities so I have decided to let them go with the sale.

ONE BADLY USED CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE. Buyer may be able to repair it if carefully handled.

The above mentioned items are stored in the basement of my home, right behind my fishing tackle, golf clubs, lawn mower, picnic basket, bathing suit and other things I use more frequently. I live at the corner of Neglect Street and Worldly Avenue.

For further information call -

A LOTTA "CHRISTIANS"
- Selected by Brother Willard Beam

When God measures a man, He puts the tape around his heart instead of his head.

NEWS ITEMS

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Lord willing, the Plevna Congregation will hold Pre-Easter services April 14 through April 18. The meetings will start at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday night. Elder Harley Flory of Defiance, Ohio will be the guest speaker.

On Saturday, April 17, there will be services starting at 2:00 p.m. with our Lovefeast at 7:00 that evening.

We extend a cordial invitation to all who can, to come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Lord willing, the McClave, Colorado Congregation plans to hold their Spring Lovefeast April 24 and 25. Services will start at eleven o'clock Saturday morning April 24th.

We invite all who can to come and enjoy these meetings with us.

Sister Aurelia Wertz, Cor.

OBITUARIES

CEVILLA MYERS

Sister Cevilla Myers, 93, of 7617 Pittsburg Ave., N.W., North Canton, Ohio departed this life, Tuesday, January 13, 1976, at the Nist Geriatric Nursing Home following an extended illness.

Born in Pennsylvania, she was a resident of the North Canton area for the past seventy-five years. She was the last survivor of five sisters and one brother. She was a member of the Orion Dunkard Brethren Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Lowell (Mildred) Kreiner, of North Canton, Mrs. George (Iona) Allen of the residence, one son, Elder Paul R. Myers, of Greentown, Ohio; five grandchildren, thirteen great grandchildren; one great-great grandson. She was preceded in death by her husband, Elder Theodore Myers, in 1947.

Funeral services were conducted from the Karlo & Sons Funeral Home, North Canton, by Elder Harley Flory assisted by Elder Edward Johnson and Rev. William Walters.

The one for whom we cared,
With such abiding love,
Has found the wondrous shining path
Up to the home above.

The home where joy forever dwells,
Where loved ones but await,
For us to share their happiness
Beyond the Heavenly gate.

We wish to thank each and every one for every kindness shown and every sympathy extended during the illness and death of our beloved mother.

The Myers Family

EMMA RUFF

Emma Lee (Kiefer) Ruff was born May 23, 1887 in the State of Missouri and departed this life at Modesto, California, November 25, 1975, at the age of 88 years, 6 months and 2 days.

She moved to Oklahoma in a covered wagon when she was 4 years old. She married Elmer Ruff in June, 1909; he preceded her in death 4 years ago. They were both baptized in 1910 in the Paint Creek Church of the Brethren. In 1928 they moved to Newberg, Oregon, and joined the Dunkard Brethren Church. In 1938 they transferred their membership to Ceres, California, where she remained faithful until death.

She leaves to mourn her departure one Son, Harvey Ruff, of Modesto; two Granddaughters, Carol Walker, of Hughson, and Shirley Wampler, of Keyes; six Great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted by Brethren Hayes Reed and Rudy Cover on November 29, 1975, at Franklin & Downs Funeral Home in Modesto. Her body was laid to rest in Lakewood Memorial Park.

A Prayer

"Lord Jesus, You be the needle and I will be the thread. You go through first, and I will follow wherever you lead."

Throughout the entire New Testament a sharp line is drawn between the church and the world. There is no middle ground. The Lord recognizes no good-natured "agreeing to disagree" so that the followers of the Lamb may adopt the world's ways and travel along the world's path. The gulf between the true Christian and the world is as great as that which separated the rich man and Lazarus . . .It is the gulf that divides the world of the ransomed from the world of fallen men.

- A. W. Tozer

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV APRIL 15, 1976 NO. 8

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE WEAVER

My life is but a weaving
Between my Lord and me.
I cannot choose the colors
He worketh steadily.

Oftimes He weaveth sorrow,
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I, the underside.

Not till the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas
And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the Weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned.

- Author Unknown
Selected by Sister Ruth Snyder

GREETINGS

Today, in our busy, hectic world, little time is taken when writing a letter to write a greeting that is very long. The usual greeting is limited to "hello," "hi" or "dear. . ." This is in marked contrast with the greetings that introduced letters two or three centuries ago. In Brumbaugh's "A History of the Brethren" is found the following greeting written in a letter by Alexander Mack, Jr. to John Price in 1772.

"In Jesus the Crucified, Much-beloved Brother: -- In this same our Immanuel I wish with all my heart all comfort of love according to the pleasure and the goodness of our God in the acknowledgment of our Savior who has died for our sins and has risen again for our righteousness."

Such a greeting may seem too involved for us but we do know they had a hearty regard for one another and for the Lord. Perhaps our letters do not reveal such sentiments because we are in such a hurry.

These greetings of another century may turn our minds to the greetings offered by the Apostle Paul. In all of his epistles, except the one to the Hebrews, Paul begins with a greeting for the Church or individual to whom he is writing. In reading his epistles we often either tire of or ignore these greetings which all resemble one another. As he greets the members, he speaks of himself as an Apostle, he wishes for them the grace and peace of God, he speaks of God's gift of His Son, and he often offers his thanks for them and their faith. This may to us seem repetitious when repeated thirteen times. When these words were written they were chosen for the intended person or congregation; they were not read by the other twelve.

Paul spoke of his Apostleship so his readers might know they were

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

receiving advice and commands ordained by God. By his wishes for God's grace and peace to be upon them, they were reminded that without God's Gracious Gift - Jesus Christ - they would still be in their sins and without His Peace they could not have the peace, "which passeth all understanding." Paul wrote in I Cor. 2:2, "For I am determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and his crucified." Paul carried this out not only in his preaching but even in him letter writing. He speaks of Jesus as the Son of God, the Suffering Saviour and the Resurrected Lord. These make powerful sermons though short. Paul had the same feeling for those of "like precious faith" as we do. He was thankful there were others who shared the same faith. He knew, as we do, that without fellowship and communion with one another the Christian life would be very lonely. How thankful we should be for our Brethren and Sisters in the Lord.

When Paul was present with these Brethren his greeting was no less emphatic than it was in his letters. He greeted the Brethren with an Holy Kiss. The same love that called forth his thankfulness for them and their faith also called forth a physical demonstration of that love. The kiss has always been an outward sign of the love within.

Paul, as well as the Apostle Peter, enjoined the kiss as the greeting to be used by Christians. At least five times in the New Testament the kiss is spoken of as the salutation of believers. The Brethren are to greet the Brethren and the Sisters, the Sisters, for the Lord would never promote that which is unseemly, which could be wrongly interpreted or could lead to sinful excess.

This kiss signifies the love of Brethren - Spiritual Brethren who are each "bought with a price." It also speaks of fidelity to one another. It is a holy kiss, so it should be true. A holy kiss can not be used to cover up malice, hatred or envy in our hearts and remain holy. In our human bodies we need outward manifestations of inward feelings. The holy kiss is the outward sign of the love that is in our heart for ". . .him also that is begotten of him." The very practice of the outward sign should deepen the inward feeling, so it is profitable for us to follow Paul's example.

You may not want to write long and involved greetings at the beginning of your letters, but you can show the same feeling by greeting ". . .one another with an holy kiss."

• • • ● • • •

TILL HE COME

Show the Lord's Death-Worshippers. I Cor. 11:26.
Hold Fast His Truth-Warriors. Rev. 2:25.
Occupy in His Service-Workers. Luke 19:13.

DEDICATION TO THE YOUNG PEOPLE

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth. . .", these words of the wise man, Solomon, seem to hold more meaning to me as the days pass. I realize more the great wisdom they contain.

Looking across the Brotherhood, it concerns me to see the lack of dedication in some of our young people. There is so much more to the Christian life than being baptized, dressing plain and attending Church. It seems that some are content to live in this state. For this reason I feel moved to write a few words to the young people.

As young people, some of you may think you are only young once, so you want to really live and enjoy these years, planning to settle down to live and work for the Lord a little later. This attitude is only a great deception of the devil. It is only when we have truly dedicated our heart and life to the Lord that we will know and enjoy the blessing of the Christian life. These years can be the best years of your life if you will only let God have his way. He has done so much for you.

In Galatians 6:7 we are warned, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Each day we live we are sowing seed, which some day we shall reap. Many express sorrow for the years they wasted before they dedicated their lives to the Lord. We can't change the mistakes of the past but we can start today to live a life that will bring joy to us in the future, rather than sorrow.

The Christian life is a growing process. As a human baby, it takes time to grow and mature. So in the Christian life, from our new birth on, we must continue to grow spiritually and bring forth fruit for the Master.

A dedication to the Lord means a separation from the world and its pleasures. What are our desires in life? Are they the worldly music, fashions, and places of amusement? Are we trying to live as close to the world as we can and still be considered a Christian? James 4:4 tells us, ". . .whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." We are also told we can not serve two masters - which one are we serving?

As young people, we often ask, "What is there for us to do?"

The first thing we should be concerned with is living a dedicated life. Each day we live, our lives are being watched by the world. Often our witness to the world will be our greatest opportunity to reach and touch the lost around us. Our dedicated lives will also be an encouragement to other members and believers. I have heard many older members, nearing the end of life's road, say it is a comfort to them to see dedicated young people. They know there are some coming on to take up the work of the Church, where they leave off.

Looking across the Brotherhood, the question often comes to mind,

"Is there a future for our Church?" Will it be watching when Christ comes to claim His own? If our Church is to continue, it will be up to us as young people. We are the Church of tomorrow. The work and labor of the Church will be on our shoulders. Are we preparing for this work? It will take the help and guiding Hand of our Heavenly Father and a dedicated effort on our part if the Church is to stand the pressure in the evil world in which we live.

Another opportunity of labor for the young people was started about two years ago. The voluntary service program, here at Torreon, is a wonderful and challenging opportunity, open to both the young Brethren and Sisters of our Church.

At the thought of mission work, many of you will say, "I'm not cut out to be a missionary." I thought the same thing. But now that I am here, I'm happy the call came for me to serve. This has been another example to me of the blessing there is in following the will of God for our lives.

A year of service here at the Mission will be a spiritual, growing experience for you. It will be a year you will long remember. There are many blessings that come with mission work that can not be expressed - they have to be experienced.

It seems the Mission, as an effort of the Church, should be supported by the young people. There should be a waiting list of those wanting to serve. Are we too tied to our fast-moving lives for mission work to even enter our minds? Mission work won't add much to our earthly savings, but what about in the life to come? "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

I know everyone can not serve here at Torreon. But in reality what is a mission field? Isn't the whole world a harvest field? Very few days go by when we don't come in contact with someone that needs the Lord. Wherever we are - at school, at work, wherever we are among people - our lives are telling a story to those around us. Are we letting our lights shine to those in the world, or do we turn our lights down low when those of the world come our way, hoping they won't notice us? Are we ashamed to tell the world we love the Lord? Christ said if we are ashamed of Him in this world, He will be ashamed of us before the Father in Heaven. If we love our Lord as we should, we will want to tell others of this love and the joys of the Christian life.

Everyone of us, as we live in this world, are stewards of the Lord. Everything we have in this world is the Lord's. Our stewardship is how we use these things. God has given each one of us talents which he expects us to use to His glory. Some have been given more talents than others, but we all have some. What are we doing with the talents the Lord has given us to use? Are we using these talents in the work of the Lord or have we buried them, making them useless?

The Bible tells us, ". . He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." II

Cor. 9:6. The harvest we expect to reap tomorrow will be determined by the seed we sow today.

Let us each search our heart and life to see where we stand before God. Is our stewardship what the Lord would be pleased with, if we were to give an account before Him tomorrow? My prayer is that we, each one, will dedicate our life more to the work of the Master.

Humbly submitted,
Brother Jim Meyers
Torreon Mission

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Part 35
CONCLUSION

In this concluding article on prayer, I wish to give a number of excerpts on prayer taken from various Scriptures, from both the Old and New Testament. There are so many, that one hardly knows which to choose.

1. "...Lord, TEACH us to pray..." Luke 11:1.
2. "And at MIDNIGHT Paul and Silas prayed..." Acts 16:25.
3. "Now therefore, O our God, HEAR the prayer of they SERVANT.." Dan. 9:17.
4. "...My house shall be called THE HOUSE of prayer..." Matt. 21:13.
5. "...The Lord will RECEIVE my prayer." Psalms 6:9.
6. "WATCH and PRAY, that ye ENTER not into TEMPTATION..." Matt. 26:41.
7. "...Men ought ALWAYS to pray..." Luke 18:1.
8. "BRETHREN, pray FOR US." I Thess. 5:25.
9. "...Their prayer CAME UP to his Holy dwelling place..." II Chron. 30:27.
10. "And he WITHDREW himself into the WILDERNESS, and prayed." Luke 5:16.
11. "Praying always with all prayer and SUPPLICATION in the Spirit." Eph. 6:18.
12. "And the prayer of FAITH shall save the sick..." James 5:15.
13. "...Pray NOW unto the Lord our God FOR US." Jer. 37:3.
14. "...Be ye therefore SOBER, and WATCH unto prayer." I Peter 4:7
15. "...Thy prayer is HEARD..." Luke 1:13.
16. "...Prayer was made without CEASING of the Church..." Acts 12:5.

17. "And being in AGONY he prayed more earnestly. . ." Luke 22:44.

18. "O thou that HEAREST prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come." Psa. 65:2.

19. ". . .The prayer of the UPRIGHT is his delight." Prov. 15:8.

20. "I will therefore that men pray EVERY WHERE. . ." I Tim. 2:8.

21. ". . .Pray one for another. . ." James 5:16.

22. ". . .He went out . . . into a SOLITARY PLACE, and there prayed." Mark 1:35.

23. ". . .He KNEELED down, and prayed with them all." Acts 20:36.

24. ". . .But I GIVE MYSELF unto prayer." Psalms 109:4.

25. ". . .He HEARETH the prayer of the RIGHTEOUS." Prov. 15:29.

26. "He shall pray unto God, and he will be FAVOURABLE unto him. . ." Job 33:26.

27. "Pray for the PEACE of Jerusalem. . ." Psalms 122:6.

28. "But when ye pray, use not VAIN repetitions. . ." Matt. 6:7.

29. ". . .What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, BELIEVE that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24.

30. "Pray without CEASING." I Thess. 5:17.

31. "Wherefore also we pray ALWAYS for you. . ." II Thess. 1:11.

32. ". . .The EFFECTUAL FERVENT prayer of a righteous man AVAILETH much." James 5:16.

THE END

- Brother Paul R. Myers
Box 117, Greentown, Ohio 44630

CHILDREN'S PAGE

MOSES PLEADS WITH GOD FOR HIS PEOPLE

Exodus 32:11-35

God was so displeased, because the children of Israel worshipped the golden calf, that He wanted to destroy them and make a new nation of Moses. Moses was a wonderful man. Here was a chance to get rid of all his worries over a rebellious people. They had caused Moses nothing but trouble. They had complained against God and accused Moses of trying to destroy them in the wilderness - letting them die of thirst and starvation. They wanted to return to Egypt. They blamed Moses for everything. Why not just stand aside and let God wipe them off the face of the earth and start all over again? But Moses loved God and he loved his people, Israel. He begged God not to destroy them. He gave God

some very good reasons. I think Moses would have made a good lawyer. He was what we call an advocate - one who is a go-between, one who makes peace between enemies. Israel, by accepting a golden calf in place of God, had become enemies to God.

Moses reminded God how He had promised Abraham that He would multiply his children and give them a land flowing with milk and honey. "And what would the Egyptians say if God would destrov His people?" Moses asked. "Wouldn't they say that the God of Israel just took them out in the desert to kill them on the mountains?" And the Lord repented of the evil which he tought to do unto His people.

Moses went down from the mountain with the two tables of stone. He hadn't seen the people dancing around the golden calf, yet. Finally he came to the place where Joshua was waiting for him. They went toward the camp of Israel together. Joshua heard the singing and shouting and thought there was a battle going on, but Moses knew better. They came to a place where they could see the people, who were dancing, singing and shouting like mad. Moses became so angry, when he saw them, that he took the tables of stone and threw them down on the rocks and broke them to pieces. Then he took the golden calf, burned it with fire, ground it into powder, put it in the water and made the children of Israel drink it.

Then Moses said to the people, "Who is on the Lord's side?" The tribe of Levi came unto Moses. Moses told them to take their swords and slay the people. The Levites did as Moses commanded; about three thousand people were killed that day because they had sinned against God.

Moses saved Israel as a nation by pleading with God, when God would have destroyed them because of sin. Jesus, who died for our sins, has also become our Advocate before God. Because Jesus was faithful to God and never sinned and because He was the Son of God, God will forgive your sins if you will live for Jesus. Because Jesus died for us, we should live for Him.

- Brother Rudy Cover

THE CHRISTIAN'S RELATION TO THE WORLD

Born Into the World. John 16:21.
Given Out of the World. John 17:6.
Delivered From the World. Galatians 1:4.
Crucified to the World. Galatians 6:14.
Not of the World. John 17:16
A Stranger in the World. I John 3:2.
Hated by the World. John 17:14.

SOUTH FULTON

"PREACH THE WORD" II Tim. 4:1-8
A sermon by Bro. W. S. Reed

These are the words and teachings of Paul, who was an especially chosen apostle to the Gentiles. What a great man of God he became after his fall to the earth on the road to Damascus, where he had been sent by the authorities to persecute Christians. Paul was coming in his own strength to Damascus but, by the Supreme Power and Authority, he was converted. Now, he is instructing Timothy, in the Spirit of Christ, "I charge thee therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

He wanted Timothy to have no other thought than this message from God who judges the quick and the dead. The Scriptures reveal in plain language the plan of salvation for us all to read.

God gave Paul the words to give Timothy so Timothy might in turn teach the people. All ministers have the same charge, regardless of who it is. The ministry is a Sacred, Heavenly charge, to be done with all longsuffering and doctrine.

What else should one preach - other than The Word? The whole world will be judged by it. We all need reproof. Did we ever come to the place in life where we didn't need to be rebuked for some of our deeds?

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees and the Sadducees. He said in His Sermon on the Mount, "That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven." Maybe you and I don't need such harsh words, but a reproof and a reminder of what we are.

Of the Word of God, in Romans 1:16, Paul says, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

What is the Word "power of" to disbelievers? Condemnation unto death. In our meditations on the Word, do we consider that it is ALIVE?

The time will come, Paul says, when they will not endure sound doctrine but will turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables. He saw by Divine inspiration that the world would grow worse and worse. You and I can see it.

Paul told Timothy to teach the Word. Whether they accept it or not, they will be judged by the Word. He taught that the time would come when people would not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts, they would heap to themselves teachers with itching ears, blown about by every wind of doctrine.

For that very reason Timothy preached the Word even if they followed strong doctrines of every belief. There are many sects of religion and new ideas springing up every year. People are turning their ears from the truth and turning to fables.

There is only ONE Word, only ONE faith and only ONE baptism. Can there be anything else?

It is a sad thing when someone, who once embraced the Gospel, has turned and followed a fable or a false religion.

We cannot follow this and that doctrine and ever expect to see salvation. Scripture teaches us that there is a way that seemeth right to man but that way is the way of death. Many claim a way that says we are all working for the same place, that all roads lead to Heaven. If we don't go the right channels, we will never get there. The way to Heaven is narrow and strait. Isn't that a very good reason why Timothy should preach the Word?

"But watch thou in all things. . .make full proof of thy ministry." Paul didn't promise Timothy a smooth life. He must suffer adversity. Was there ever a Christian who didn't endure affliction? Paul urged Timothy to make his work fully satisfactory to God, if not to man, regardless of what the world thought of him. It matters not about them so long as you teach what God says. What more or better advice could Paul give to Timothy or to any Christian?

"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand." I wonder if Timothy wasn't sad at these words that Paul spoke, for he loved him. I'm sure that Timothy felt lonely and alone in his labors.

Paul fought a good fight. I wonder how many of us could say that? "I have kept the faith." Can we say the same? Matt. 17:20 tells us that if we had the faith the size of a mustard seed we could say to ". . .this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove. . ." A mustard seed is pretty small, isn't it? When Jesus said that, did He mean it would actually happen? None of us have enough faith to tell a mountain to move and it would.

Paul acknowledges the righteous judge, The Lord, and the crown that would be his ". . .at that day; and not to me only, but unto ALL them also that love his appearing." That takes in us, too; doesn't it? A crown for those ready and looking forward to seeing the Lord.

David acknowledges the Word as ". . .a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." The Word of God is a light to Life. It points the way.

Our prayer is that the Word will give us much consolation, a deeper understanding to guide us and to direct our own pathway.

- Sister Elta K. Blythe
822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois

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Often the burdens that weigh us down today produce the blessings which will bear us up tomorrow.

WHAT ARE YOU LIVING FOR?

Whatever you live for, or trust in, is your god. That is what you worship. It may be yourself, or something, or the one true God. There are people who worship a stone statue; others carry a medal or rabbit's foot, which they believe will bring them good luck. Some worship their country, going beyond necessary respect. Others trust in another person. Still others live for prestige, possessions or money. What are you living for? Something or for the Lord?

You are sure, you wouldn't be silly enough to bow and pray before a stone statue or pray to your ancestors, for you know they cannot help you. But do you bow to your own desires? Do you live, just, for whatever you can get out of life? If you have nothing to live for, but yourself, your life is empty and meaningless. Christ alone can make your life worthwhile.

If you are living for yourself, you will go all out in doing whatever you want to do. Whatever interests and concerns you have will determine how you spend your time. If your desire is to live for the Lord, you will go all out in doing what He wants you to do. You won't be satisfied with just a halfhearted effort. Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." Matthew 22:37. This means God expects whole-hearted service, not just your spare time and energy.

If you put God first and seek to please Him, your entire life will be centered around what He wants you to do. You will plan your daily activities so they do not interfere with serving God. You know that going to a worship service or being alone with God in prayer is no accident; it must be planned for. When someone needs spiritual help, you will give your attention to that need. A Christ-centered life puts "first things first" every day!

There is no joy for those who worship idols. They are afraid not to worship, yet, they are never sure if they have done the right thing. They must "guess" at what will please their gods. For the Christian there is joy both in worship and service. "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalms 122:1. "I delight to do thy will, O my God; yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalms 40:8. With God's law within, we have joy and peace, because we know what pleases Him.

God desires and deserves our worship, our love, and our lives. He is not just a "fire escape;" someone to turn to when we have a problem we can't handle, or when we are going to die. He gave His only Son to save us. Because of this, we can enjoy freedom from sin, if we turn to God and live for Him. Then, and only then, can we have true joy and satisfaction.

The person seeking to satisfy himself never finds what he wants. Emptiness is always there. Christ came that we might have life, not just

barely enough to keep us spiritually alive, but in abundance. "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10. This is a life of joy and blessing, of trusting and living for our Lord and Saviour. It is a life of sharing the good news of salvation with others, of loving, of giving, of being patient and kind. Which do you want? Emptiness or the abundant life?

It is very foolish to ignore God and go your own way, seeking to satisfy yourself. It is wise to live for the One who died to save you, the One who brings true peace to your heart. Jesus loves you and wants to bless you, if you will only trust Him. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee." Isa. 26:3. Please do trust in Him now and really begin to live!

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

PROPHECY AND FULFILLMENT

Here are statements in the Psalms, which the New Testament explicitely declares to refer to Christ.

"They pierced my hands and feet." Psalms 22:16, John 20:25.

"For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up." Psm. 69:9, John 2:17.

"Lo, I come; . . .to do thy will O God." Psm. 40:7-8, Heb. 10:7.

"Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever." Psm. 45:6, Heb. 1:8.

"He trusted on the Lord. . .; let him deliver him." Psm. 22:8, Matt. 27:43.

"Thou hast put all things under his feet." Psm. 8:6, Heb. 2:6-10.

"And let another take his office (the betrayer)." Psm. 109:8, Acts 1:20.

"My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Psm. 22:1, Matt. 27:46.

"Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten Thee." Psm. 2:7, Acts 13:33.

"Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord." Psm. 118:26, Matt. 21:9.

"They gave me also gall,. . .and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink." Psm. 69:21, Matt. 27:34.

"Mine own familiar friend . . . which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me." Psm. 41:9, John 13:18.

"They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture." Psm. 22:18, John 19:24.

"The Lord has sworn . . . Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek." Psm. 110:4, Heb. 7:17.

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." Psm. 118:22, Matt. 21:42.

"The Lord said unto My Lord, Sit thou at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool." Psm. 110:1, Matt. 22:44.

"For thou will not leave My soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Psm. 16:10, Acts. 2:27.

- Brother W. E. Bashor
867 Lorna Dr., Glen Ellen, Calif. 95442

OBITUARIES

MAGGIE HARRIS

Sister Harris was the last of the nine children of Thomas and Rebecca Rotruck. She was born at the present residence, near the Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church, Antioch, West Virginia, October 4, 1879 and died January 28, 1976 at the Romney Hospital at the good age of 96 years, 3 months and 24 days.

She spent her entire life at her birthplace and was seldom far away from home. She was united in marriage with Bro. G. Thomas Harris. To this union was born four children: May, Otto, Viola and Vance. Viola died in infancy. She is survived by the three children, four grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Sister Harris was very active in the home, until about eight years ago, when she was seriously handicapped with a broken hip. She accepted Christ as her Saviour at the early age of ten years.

Beautiful rest for the weary,
Well deserved rest for the true,
When our life's journey is ended
We shall again be with you.
This helps to quiet our weeping;
Hark! Angel music so sweet,
He giveth to His beloved,
Beautiful, beautiful sleep.

Funeral services were conducted at the Ridge Church, Sunday Feb. 1, by Brethren Howard Surbey and Virgil Leatherman, from the text of I Cor. 15:16-23. Interment in the Knobley Cemetery nearby.

RALPH H. LORENZ

Ralph Herman Lorenz, 59, rural Greentown, Indiana, departed this life on January 5 at Tipton County Memorial Hospital, following a three-month illness.

Born April 4, 1916, in Howard County, he was the son of Jacob and Edith (Deardorf) Lorenz. He was married March 10, 1940 to Naomi Georgeanna Kendall, who survives.

He was a member of the Kokomo Church of the Brethren. His entire life was spent around the Greentown area.

Also surviving are two sons, Herman Lorenz of Hobbs and Toney Kent Lorenz of Greentown; six brothers, Ross Lorenz of Amboy, Ernest Lorenz of Mexico, Paul Lorenz of Vidor, Texas, Donald Lorenz of Peru, Kenneth Lorenz of Greentown and Carl Lorenz of Greentown; two sisters, Mrs. Esther Bird of Converse and Miss Dorothy Lorenz of Greentown; and two grandchildren. A brother preceded him in death.

Services were held on Friday, January 9, at the Kokomo Church of the Brethren with the Rev. Randall Yoder, assisted by the Rev. John Sonafrank, officiating. Burial was at Sunset Memory Gardens Cemetery near Kokomo.

NEWS ITEMS

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation met in council on February 21, 1976 with our Elder, Jacob Ness, in charge. All business was taken care of in a Christian manner.

The Waynesboro Congregation, the Lord willing, will hold our Spring Lovefeast the first Sunday in May with an all day service. We extend a hearty invitation to all who can come and worship with us. We especially ask for the support of the ministering Brethren. If you cannot attend, please pray for us.

- Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

The Winterhaven Congregation held council February 7, 1976. Brother Ora Skiles, our Elder, took charge. All business was taken care of in a Christian manner. Pray for us at this place.

- Sister Emma Freed, Cor.

A TRIPLET IN PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Careful for Nothing - No Burdens.
Prayerful for Everything - No Reserves.
Thankful for Anything - No Murmurs.

RENEWALS

Over the past few months, we have received a great number of renewals and new subscriptions for the Bible Monitor. We appreciate not only the work of the correspondents and agents who sent in for whole congregations but also those who sent in single or a few subscriptions. They all add up. Thank you. It is our hope that all business concerning these subscriptions has been handled to your satisfaction. It is our desire that the Bible Monitor might be sent forth for the benefit of each subscriber and to the Honor and Glory of God. We continue to solicit an interest in your prayers.

- Editor

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MAY

May 2 - Esther Becomes Queen. Esther 2:1-23

May 9 - MOTHER'S DAY - Prov. 31:10-31

May 16 - Haman's Decree to Exterminate God's People. Esther 3:1-15.

May 23 - Queen Esther Accepts Mordecai's Advice. Esther 4:1-17.

May 30 - Esther and the Golden Scepter. Esther 5:1-14.

QUESTIONS:

(1) How did Esther obtain favor with Hegai, the king's chamberlain? Esther 2:15.

(2) What great favor did Mordecai do for the King? Esther 2:21, 22.

(3) What is the greatest thing a woman can do to be praised? Prov. 31:30.

(4) Why was Haman angry with Mordecai? Esther 3:2

(5) What was Mordecai's advice to Queen Esther? Esther 4:13, 14.

(6) What did King Ahasuerus promise Queen Esther? Esther 5:6.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR MAY 1976

COME

Memory Verse Acts 16:9
And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.
Sat. 1, Acts 16:1-15

Memory Verse, Acts 17:6
And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;
Sun. 2, Acts 16:16-40
Mon. 3, Acts 17:1-34
Tues. 4, Acts 18:1-28
Wed. 5, Acts 19:1-22
Thurs. 6, Acts 19:23-41
Fri. 7, Acts 20:17-38

Memory Verse, Acts 24:25
And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.
Sun. 9, Acts 21:1-20
Mon. 10, Acts 21:21-40
Tues. 11, Acts 22:1-30
Wed. 12, Acts 23:1-16
Thurs. 13, Acts 23:17-35
Fri. 14, Acts 24:1-27
Sat. 15, Acts 25:1-27

Memory Verse, Acts 26:22
Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:
Sun. 16, Acts 26:1-32
Mon. 17, Acts 27:1-20
Tues. 18, Acts 27:21-44
Wed. 19, Acts 28:1-31
Thurs. 20, Rom. 1:1-32
Fri. 21, Rom. 3:1-31
Sat. 22, Rom. 5:1-21

Memory Verse, Rom. 3:23
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Sun. 23, Rom. 8:18-39
Mon. 24, Rom. 9:1-33
Tues. 25, Rom. 11:1-21
Wed. 26, Rom. 11:22-36
Thurs. 27, Rom. 15:1-33
Fri. 28, Rom. 16:1-27
Sat. 29, I Cor. 1:1-31

Memory Verse, Rom. 5:14
Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the stimilitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.
Sun. 30, I Cor. 2:1-16
Mon. 31, I Cor. 3:1-23

Memory Verse, Rom. 9:26
And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God.
Rom. 11:26
And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV MAY 1, 1976 NO. 9

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE HAPPY HOME

Happy the home, when God is there,
And love fills ev'ry breast;
Where one their wish, and one their pray'r,
And one their heav'nly rest.

Happy the home where Jesus' name
Is sweet to ev'ry ear;
Where children early lisp his fame
And parents hold him dear.

Happy the home where pray'r is heard,
And praise is wont to rise;
Where parents love the sacred Word,
And live but for the skies.

Lord! let us in our homes agree,
This blessed peace to gain;
Unite our hearts in love to thee,
And love to all will reign.

MOTHERS OF THE BIBLE

"Her children arise up, and call her blessed." Prov. 31:28a.

There are many mothers mentioned in the Bible. Some are mentioned by name, while others are known to us only as the mother of whoever we're reading about. This willingness to be cast as an unknown is indicative of a true mother's heart which is more concerned with her children's fame than her own. From the examples of a few of the mothers mentioned in the Bible, we want to consider some of the traits of a Christian Mother. This can be but a passing glance at a few of the many truths suggested by the lives of these particular women.

Hannah had to wait a long time for the fulfilling of her prayer. She was persistent. She had to bear the taunts of her rival because she was childless in an age that valued offspring highly. She might have despaired but didn't. She wanted a son. But she did not want a child to spoil like a long-awaited child often is. She wanted a son to give back to the Lord. She realized, what many have forgotten today, that without God's gift of the spark of life husbands and wives could never be parents. She set her sights higher than to merely provide food and clothing for a son. She set her sights, above her family, on God. By doing so she became a great mother. Without a concern for the Spiritual needs of her family a mother can not fulfill the mission God has given her. Fathers should also take note of this fact.

Virtue and purity, though often derided in the present evil generation, are of great value in God's sight. Not just any woman, especially one guilty of fornication, could have been the mother of Jesus. Mary was in the center of the greatest miracle ever performed. She became the

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

mother of the Son who was not only man but God as well. God's Holy Son could not be borne by an impure woman. God's blessing of Mary's purity should be an inducement to each girl and woman to remain pure so God can use her also. Mary was the only one who was both beside the Bethlehem manger and at the foot of the Cross. Both times were dangerous, sorrowful and painful for her, but a mother is willing to bear any pain, even shame, for her family. Mary, chosen of God for her purity, bore the same of being considered a fornicator by those around her, including Joseph at first. Although Mary had many praiseworthy traits we must be careful to not ascribe God's characteristics to her.

We think of Naomi more as a mother-in-law than as a mother. Yet, we must conclude she was a good mother to have had such an influence on a heathen daughter-in-law. The relationship between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law is often a frail one. Because the man owes a duty to both his wife and his mother there is often tension between the two. Naomi bridged this gap with Ruth so she became as Ruth's own mother. She could only have succeeded by using love. Her love was not simply human love but was from above. It brought Ruth out of heathenism into God's Chosen People and even placed her in the ancestry of the yet-future Messiah.

There is little we know about Timothy's mother, Eunice. Yet, Paul cites her by name because of the influence she and her mother had on Timothy. She had taught her son the Scriptures and had raised him to serve God. Mothers are in the position of teaching their children many things. Included in their teaching should be Bible verses and Christian training. The faith that had dwelt in the hearts of Lois and Eunice was lived out and taught in such a consistent way that Timothy early decided to follow that way. He became a leader in the Early Church. Eunice did not have an entirely easy task since Timothy's father was not of the faith. Christian women can have a very great influence on their families even when there is opposition in the home.

The children of theese women could arise up and call them blessed. They had fulfilled the duties God had given to them. There are duties for both the old and the young. "The aged women likewise, that they be in behavior as becometh holiness, not as false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Titus 2:3-5.

Would you like for your children to arise up and call you blessed? Fulfill your God-given duties.

• • • ● • • •

Willingness without action is like a cloud without rain.

AT DAY'S END

Is anybody happier because you passed his way?
Does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?
The day is almost over, and its toiling time is through;
Is there anyone to utter now a kindly word of you?
Can you say tonight, in parting with the day that's slipping fast,
That you helped a single brother of the many that you passed?
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said;
Does the man whose hopes were fading, now with courage look ahead?
Did you waste the day, or lose it? Was it well or sorely spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness or a scar of discontent?
As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,
"You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today?"

- John Hall

Being Christian people, we all should ask ourselves this poem's question. Put it where it belongs. Let's say "I" where the poet puts "you." Is anybody happier because I passed his way? If we cannot give a big "yes" to this question, and to all the rest, we had better stop right there and start making some changes in our lives. Does anyone remember that I spoke to him of our Savior today? The day is almost over and its toiling-time is through. Can we as Christians look back on our lives, as the door comes swinging shut, and know that someone can utter a kind word of us? If no one can, will our Lord and Savior want to say one?

Can I say tonight, when parting with the day that's slipping fast, that I have helped a Brother of the many that I have passed? If only we could reach out and help, or give assistance to, some poor soul that may need only a few words of encouragement. What a blessing it would be, if someone were to extend a helping hand to an angel. Is a single heart rejoicing over what I did or said? Only if I tell of the love of Jesus can I truly help a heart rejoice. Telling it like it is, Dear Brother, can make a very big difference in the life of someone who is out in sin. We as Christians should give these people some courage to go on. We should be true witnesses for our Precious Savior. So when the time comes for our testimony to help give others courage, we can. Did I help someone find Jesus today? If not, was my day well or sorely spent? If I told someone of Jesus, the day wasn't lost. Did I leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?

As I close my eyes in slumber will I be able to say, "I have done my very best for Jesus." Will I be able to say like the Apostle Paul that I have fought a good fight, that I have kept the faith?

I believe that, if everyone, who professes to be a Christian, would just STOP and take time to tell someone about my Jesus, that the hustle and

bustle of life wouldn't be so much of a drag. This would also be a nice way of telling our Savior, "Thank You for the plan of salvation."

In Christian Love,
Brother Orvis Smith
Box 401, Quinter, Kansas 67752

PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

From the earliest times, mankind wore and used devices for the protection of the body in battle. These devices were of different types and made of different material, from heavy leatther to hardened-steel. Usually, they consisted of a shield worn on one arm, a coat or breastplate, leather or iron castings for the legs and feet, and a helmet for the head. Paul spoke of an armour of righteousness as a protection to the child of GOD, to guard him against evil or temptation.

What is the armour of GOD? Could it be our every-day-walk of life? Could it be the way we talk or speak to our neighbors, or friends, or loved ones, or our Brethren and Sisters in the Lord? What kind of a light are we casting round about us for others to see? Is it a light that God would be pleased with?

Eph. 6:13 says, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." This armour is our daily prayers, loving-kindnesses, and lending of a helping hand. Perhaps, we know a widow who could use some help. Some little kindnesses go a long way, and are very much appreciated. Do we have a price tag on everything we do? Are we too busy to lend a helping hand? SHAME ON US! MYSELF INCLUDED. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, . . . AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU."

"Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;" Eph. 6:14-17. "The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light." Rom. 13:12. It seems we have here a lot of very good instructions. The night is far spent. It seems we had better awaken out of our sleep and be up and about our Father's business. He has a lot for each and every one of us to do. The Day is at hand. I think we had better be up and doing while we still have light or else we will not be able to see. Jesus is coming one of these days. "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few."

What will our friends or our associates think of us? The real question is, what will God think? We need to awaken out of our deep sleep, while we still have time and opportunity. The Scriptures teach that if we resist Satan he will flee from us. Are we truly resisting Satan or are we trying to convince ourselves that we are putting up a resistance? Take heed, GOD is not mocked. Maybe we need to take inventory of ourselves, once in awhile. When we put on worldly clothes, is this the armour of God? If we wear a prayer veil that does not much more than cover the crown of our heads, is this part of the armour of God? If the Sisters have their skirts above their knees, is this part of the armour of God? If we stay at home and deny our families the privilege of going to the house of worship, is this part of the armour of God? These things don't seem very consistent do they? May God help us to be more consistent.

We are not hiding anything from God. Remember, there is an Eye-on-High watching every move we make. Also, the world is watching every move we make. We need to be very careful what kind of a light we are shedding. May God help us. Eph. 6:13 says, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God." When we do these inconsistent things, do we just smooth them over or do we go to the Church and God and make things right with them? What good is the Polity Book if WE don't pay any attention to it? Do we cancel worship services because we have social plans that are more important? What does God think of all this?

Are we, every one of us, doing what seemeth right in our own eyes, then expecting God to bless us? Take heed, the Day of Grace is almost expired. The midnight hour is almost here. We have only a few minutes left. My prayer is that we possess what we profess.

- Brother Lester M. Flora
Rt. 2, Box 425A, Syracuse, Indiana
46567

APPRECIATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT

Col. 1:3-8. "We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you. Since we heard of your fatih in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints, For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, where of ye heard before in the word of truth of the gospel; Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth; As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ; Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit."

The above furnishes guide lines for the appreciation and encouragement of Brethren and Sisters in Christ. Young converts and young Churches especially need this.

This is far above the personal compliment that the flesh holds so dear. It starts with praise and prayer to God. The Father and the Son are first acknowledged, then also (verse 5) ". . .the Word of the truth of the Gospel." Paul, Timothy, Epaphras and the faithful ones in Colosse were now rejoicing together in the Gospel of Christ.

Jesus' parable of Matthew 13 comes to mind. "Behold, a sower went forth to sow." Christ was the first sower of the "Word of the Kingdom." Paul also had sowed and so had Epaphras. Precious souls in Colosse were some of the "good ground" that "received" the seed "and brought forth fruit." Precious Assemblies of believers were springing up wherever the Gospel-seed was sown. The Colossian Church was one of many newly-formed Churches. Individuals, families and assemblies of believers were not only the fruits of the Gospel; they also manifested the fruits of the Spirit of God. Paul notes three characteristics of these true believers in Christ.

1. "...your FAITH in Christ Jesus. . ."
2. "...the LOVE which ye have to all the saints."
3. ". . .The HOPE which is laid up for you in heaven. . ."

These are easily recognized as the abiding three of I Cor. 13:13.

This is indeed a positive approach with positive words. But it is more than the positive approach found in today's commercialism and in much humanistic teaching. Paul is using true words as building blocks in a growing structure of Christian life.

Jesus put a high value on faith, wherever He found it; He found it in strange places and in obscure people. He couples "faith" with "believe." He uses the word "faith" at least forty times in the Gospels and "believe" over sixty times. He was quick to point out the faith of the ". . .little ones who believe in me. . ."

"Examine yourselves," said Paul to the Corinthians, "whether ye be in the faith." II Cor. 13:5. We of the twentieth century may well take this to heart. Is our faith that of the Colossian Brethren? Their faith was in Christ Jesus. This was the simple faith of the Church of the first century.

Since that time unnumbered thousands have been put to death for this simple affirmation of faith in Jesus. Many in this century have been added to this illustrious roll of Martyrdom.

In our land of freedom, we have time to study the Word of God. Where Christ is hated, His followers are also hated and must suffer with Him. When freed from persecution, false Christs and deceivers arise to deceive, if it were possible, the very elect. Faith and belief in Christ is to be shown by obedience to Him. Faith in Christ Jesus is the foundation stone of each true believer.

Faith in Christ Jesus produces a stream of Christian love that flows out to all others of like faith. Jesus said, "This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you." John 15:12. Missionary zeal should always be the outgrowth of Christ's love radiating from God's children.

The first joy of confessed faith in Christ is of sins forgiven and peace with God. Then the blessedness of what Paul calls "love to all the saints." The angels in Heaven rejoice over a new trophy of Christ's love, filled with Christ's love for His own. How sweet to remember this true token of God's Grace in after years.

As Christ is the foundation of our faith, He becomes likewise the center of our love. The human love-life reaches out for it's own, sometimes mistakenly and often disastrously. It was meant by the Kind Creator to last for a lifetime. It greatly influences human conduct. In some lives it is bottled up in a life of selfishness. In some it is spread out and wasted as precious water on burning desert sands.

Human love reaches it's best fruition in a family home. Each child causes the home love-life to expand to a full capacity. Patterns for living are developed here that greatly influence the community and social life.

But as human nature is a fallen, selfish nature, the best of human love is tainted with selfishness. Christ died and arose again that we might have and drink deep of His own Spiritual love-life. Revelation 2:4 shows that Christ expects us to highly prize the "first love" of Christian experience. Like His "Divine Love" so ours must reach out to "all the world." (John 3:16).

Christ's love within means giving and giving until it hurts, and then to keep on giving. Divine love lays a heavy cross upon the life. Without the "hope laid up for you in Heaven" the Christian would often find himself living a joyless, frustrated life.

Visit again the bedside of that long-suffering Saint. Note how the years of suffering have made the hope laid up in Heaven more near and more dear.

The joy of expectancy beckons us on. As we draw nearer, hope gives courage to face life's sunset with undimmed faith and hope in Christ. Our love reaches out to our Jesus to see Him and to be like Him.

I John 3:2-3, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

Loving you in Him,
James D. Cover
1225 E. Morris, Modesto, Calif. 95350

Doctrine is the framework of life - the skeleton of truth, to be clothed and rounded out by the living Grace of a holy life. - Gordon.

CAN YOU IMAGINE?

Can you imagine the feeling Adam and Eve had when approached by God, after eating the forbidden fruit? Is it any wonder that they hid when God called to them? They knew they were naked and tried to clothe themselves, but God was not satisfied with their efforts. Man's remedy for sin is never sufficient. God clothed them, but He also punished them. How sad this must have been for Adam and Eve, when they traded purity for sin, God's blessing for a curse, and life for death!

Can you imagine the peaceful feeling Noah had knowing he and his family were saved from the flood because he had obeyed God? It took much work and many years to build the ark. It was probably the biggest spectacle in the world at that time. Noah no doubt endured much scoffing and many insulting remarks, for the people did not regard God. In Genesis 6:5, it says that their wickedness was very great. Noah's obedience seemed foolish to them, but it secured for him a blessing, and for his family, life.

Can you imagine how Abraham's servant felt when God answered his prayer so specifically about a wife for Isaac? He was acting in another's place and he was determined not to make a mistake. He asked for a sign so he would know which damsel God had chosen for Isaac. Not a detail was omitted. The servant worshipped the Lord because his journey was so richly blessed. A specific prayer for a specific need gets results, when accompanied by faith and a desire for God's guidance.

Can you imagine how King Nebuchadnezzar looked when he was driven out into the field? His hair grew as eagles feathers and his nails as claws. God told him through Daniel that this would happen so Nebuchadnezzar would know God rules over all. The King continued to exalt himself rather than to forsake his sins. Finally, he was forced to live as an animal. When his understanding returned, he blessed God, and honored Him as the King of Heaven. ". . .those that walk in pride he is able to abase." Dan. 4:37.

Can you imagine how Belshazzar felt when he saw the hand writing on the wall before him? He greatly feared and trembled, for ". . .the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another." Dan. 5:6. He knew of his father's humiliation but he was not humble. He exalted himself, by using the sacred vessels from the Temple to drink from, while praising idols. God said, "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting." Dan. 5:27. God didn't tolerate any further sin; Belshazzar was slain that very night.

Can you imagine how Jonah felt while in the fish's belly? To be alive and aware of such a predicament surely made him wish that he had obeyed God in the first place. Jonah tried to get away from God, but when God dealt with him, he soon changed his attitude. He prayed with a repentant heart and determined to pay that which he had vowed. (Jon.

2:9). He was commanded the second time to go and preach and he did. How many times must God speak to you, before you obey?

Can you imagine how Paul and Silas felt when they were severely beaten and cast into prison? The people rose up against them, because Paul had cast the evil spirit out of a young woman. She was now free, but her masters were angry because their source of income was gone. Even though Paul and Silas were fastened in the stocks, and their backs were sore and bleeding, they prayed and sang praises to God loud enough that the other prisoners heard them. (Acts 16:25). Could you rejoice in such circumstances? Before the night was over, they had a preaching service followed by a baptismal service for the jailer and his household. This was, truly, victory in trial.

Can you imagine why God would send His only Son to save us? Ever since Adam and Eve sinned, mankind has sinned. Instead of purity, there is the filthiness of sin, so why did He bother with us? "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. We can't deserve what God has given, but we can accept Christ, whether we understand His love or not.

Can you imagine how God feels when His gift is rejected? It brings Him grief, but one day, it will bring His wrath upon those who reject Christ. We, who are so impure, have no right to ignore Christ's cleansing blood and go our own selfish way. We have God's Word to direct us so we can obey, just as Noah did. We can seek God's will, just as the servant did. We can be hard to convince, just as Jonah was. We can reject Him, just as Belshazzar did, and suffer accordingly. Which is it for you?

"To imagine" is to form an idea of something in your mind. Sometimes, it is turned to foolishness and evil, as those who "...became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Rom. 1:21b. To form an idea of God in our minds, we must think about Him and His Son. We must realize we are sinners in need of salvation. Have you thought about your need? Will you accept Christ now, then serve Him with all your heart?

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

If indifference is the saddest of all things, it is beyond measure sad when it occurs in serious circumstances. To be at ease is, for a mind, never a high thing; but to "be at ease in Zion" - that is an awful calamity! It is like laughter in the midst of a funeral; it is like Wordsworth's little girl dancing round the grave. - George Matheson.

THE MEANING OF THE COMMISSION

We are always running into those who differ with us on the mode of baptism. Of course, they give their explanation of their belief, supposedly based on the Scriptures. Their belief should be given special care and thought. Their error should be pointed out, with love. I heard a preacher make the statement that The Commission teaches that we are baptized into the name of the Trinity, inferring that there is only one name in The Commission. If this is true, then we are wrong.

It is our belief that The Commission teaches trine immersion and that trine immersion was the primitive practice; we should be able to sustain this belief with facts. I believe that if our members were instructed as they should be, we wouldn't see some of them going to other denominations for fellowship.

Jesus taught His disciples to go and, "...teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." In our discussions on this subject, we have taught that the language of The Commission teaches three persons in the Trinity and that we are baptized into each name. We admit that the Trinity in a certain sense is one and that is a very important sense. Yet, that they are three in another sense is as clearly taught in the scriptures as any other truth. Then the question is, whether we are to baptize into them in the sense that they are one or in the sense they are three.

A look at The Commission and its grammatical construction will show that it is in the sense that they are three. In The Commission there are three phrases. A phrase is, "a group of words that convey a thought or action." To deny this, is to deny the true meaning of the English language.

The second fact is that there are three definite articles in The Commission. The definite article "the" coming before the names, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, shows that there are three names in The Commission. So we are baptized into each name. I will give the definition of an article according to the English language text book, by James C. Fernald. "An article is a limiting adjective serving to designate or point out a noun, and may be used with or without other adjectives modifying the same noun."

Therefore, The Great Commission teaches three immersions, as surely as there are three persons named in The Commission. This should settle the fact, in our minds, about the truth of trine immersion, as the only Scriptural mode of baptism in use today.

- Brother W. E. Bashor
867 Lorna Dr., Glen Ellen, Calif. 95442

CHILDREN'S PAGE

FACE TO FACE WITH GOD

Exodus 33

Moses was a friend of God. He wanted to do exactly what God told him to do. But, the children of Israel were not always obedient to God. God was very displeased with them and called them "stiffnecked," which is just another way of saying that they were stubborn and wanted to have their own way. God said unto Moses, "I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people." God also told Moses to have the people take off all their ornaments so that He would know what to do with them. This caused the people to be afraid of God. God had done many wonders for Israel. They had escaped from Egypt through the Red Sea; they had been fed food and given water in a dry and thirsty land. God had been good to them and had blessed them. Now God told them that He was almost ready to consume them. If God would not go with them, what would become of them?

Moses took the tabernacle which had been in the center of the camp and pitched it outside - afar off. God did not want to come in the camp with the people because they were too sinful. The tabernacle was a big tent where God met with Moses. And it came to pass that Moses entered the tabernacle. The cloudy pillar, where God was, descended and stood at the door of the tabernacle. All the people were watching and they stood up and worshipped God - every man in his tent door.

The Lord spoke unto Moses face to face as a man speaks to his friend. This doesn't mean that Moses could see God's face, because God was in the cloudy pillar. Moses begged to go with them. If God did not allow him, then the people would be separated from Moses and become scattered no one would know that they were a people of God. Moses said, "Show me now Thy Way that I may find grace in Thy Sight and consider this nation is Thy People."

And God said, "I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken; for you have found grace in my sight, and I know you by name."

Moses was so glad, for what God promised, that he said, "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory."

God said, "You cannot see my face for there shall no man see me and live. Behold, there is a place by me, and you shall stand upon a rock and when my glory passes by, I will put you in the clift of the rock and will cover you with my hand while I pass by; And I will take away my hand and you shall see my back parts, but my face shall not be seen."

Would you like to see Jesus face to face? If you get to Heaven, you will. The Apostle Paul says, "For we see through a glass, darkly; but

then face to face." The Apostle John speaks about the throne of God and of Jesus; ". . .And his servants shall serve him and they shall see his face. . ."

Moses saw some of the glory of God because he was faithful. If we are faithful and serve God now, we will see His Face in Heaven.

- Brother Rudy Cover

MY MOTHER

My mother never smoked nor drank,
My mother never swore,
My mother never played at bridge
Nor mounted up a score.

My mother never plucked her brows
Nor rouged her sweet, dear face,
And on my mother's loving lips
No stain of paint I trace.

My mother never dyed her nails,
She never bobbed her hair;
But virtue, grace and honesty
Have been her jewels rare.

Today my mother would be called
Old-fashioned, well I know;
But oh, how glad I am that God
Hath made and kept her so!

Mother, dear, you are not forgotten
Though on this earth you are no more,
Still, your memory is ever with us,
As you always were before.

In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweetly tender, fond and true,
There is not a day, dear mother,
That we do not think of you.

A precious one is from us gone,
A voice we loved is stilled,
A place is vacant in our home
Which never can be filled.

Selected by Sister Margaret Myers

OBITUARY

PERRY SINES

Perry H. Sines of Route 2, Aurora, West Virginia was born March 17, 1894 at Sang Run, Maryland, the son of the late minister Henry B. and Harriett (Mangus) Sines, and died February 20 in Garrett Memorial Hospital shortly after he was admitted of a heart condition at the age of 81 years, 11 months, and 3 days.

Bro. Sines was baptized in the Church of the Brethren in early life. He later affiliated with the Swallow Falls Dunkard Church. Bro. Sines was a conscientious objector during World War I. Being a conscientious objector in those days was not easy since the Government did not make provision for religious objectors.

Bro. Sines was first married to Sis. Mary Ream. To this union were born three sons, Floyd, the oldest drowned when 17 years of age; Eugene, Guam; and Delano, Wellington, Ohio survive. Sis. Mary died many years ago. Later Bro. Perry married Gussie R. Upole. To this union were born Mrs. Mary L. Fint, with whom Bro. Perry and his wife made their home; Mrs. Kathleen Walker, Grafton, Ohio; Charles, Wellington, Ohio; Robert, Leesburg, Virginia; Chester, LaGrange, Ohio; Carlton, Oakland, Maryland; Harry, Grantsville, Maryland; Russell, Mt. Lake Park, Maryland; also one sister, Mrs. Edith Friend, Oakland, Maryland; twenty-three grandchildren and many relatives and friends.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday, February 25th from the Pine Grove Church of the Brethren by ministers Donald Matthew, Jonas Sines, and Homer Mellott.

I laid it down in silence,
This work of mine,
And took what had been sent me
A resting time.
The Master's voice had called me
To rest apart;
"Apart with Jesus only,"
Echoed my heart.

Interment was in the Taylor Sines Cemetery.

Wisdom consists of knowing what to do with what you know.

Most of us know how to say nothing - few of us when.

NEWS ITEMS

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Love Feast services at West Fulton will be on May 15th with services morning and afternoon. Communion will be in the evening. There will be services on Sunday also.

We invite those who can, to come and worship with us.

- Sister Leola Beck, Cor.

NOTICE

As June 1976 marks the 50th Anniversary for the Dunkard Brethren Church, we the Plevna, Indiana Congregation are having an all day service on June 13, 1976 in honor of this event.

The first General Conference was held here at that time in 1926.

All day services are planned. We invite everyone from coast to coast to come and enjoy the day with us.

- Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

GREAT WORDS

The greatest word is God
The deepest word is Soul.
The longest word is Eternity.
The swiftest word is Time.
The nearest word is Now.
The darkest word is Sin.
The meanest word is Hypocrisy.
The broadest word is Truth.
The strongest word is Right
The tenderest word is Love.
The sweetest word is Home.
The dearest word is Mother.

At times it is better to keep your mouth shut and let people wonder if you're a fool, than open it and remove all doubt.

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Paul R. Myers
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Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV MAY 15,1976 NO. 10

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

"For Christ and the Church" let our voices ring,
Let us honor the name of our own blessed King;
Let us work with a will in the strength of youth,
And loyally stand for the kingdom of truth.

"For Christ and the Church" be our earnest prayer,
Let us follow His banner, the cross daily bear;
Let us yield, wholly yield, to the Spirit's pow'r,
And faithfully serve Him in life's brightest hour.

"For Christ and the Church" willing off'rings make,
Time and talents and gold for the dear Master's sake;
We will render the best we can bring to Him,
The heart's wealth of love, that will never grow dim.

"For Christ and the Church" let us cast aside,
By His conquering grace, chains of self, fear, and pride;
May our lives be enriched by an aim so grand;
Then happy the call to the Savior's right hand.

- E. E. Hewitt

OPTIONS

Today when buying a new autobobile it is possible to have various features added to the basic automobile. These features are called options. They are not necessary for the operation of the vehicle but are added to provide greater speed, sportiness, safety or convenience. These options represent choices we make when we buy a new automobile. This is not the only place in life where we are given choices.

Many people have decided there are options in the Christian life. To them it is either take it or leave it, but whichever choice they make it will not affect their standing before God. For them, after believing in Jesus Christ, all other commands of the New Testament become optional. They find no reason why they can not continue in the same life-style as before. The commands of the New Testament are, in their thinking, only to be done to foster convenience and to increase their future rewards in Heaven. God did not design the Christian life as an optional accessory but as a part of basic Christianity.

All can see the need of faith. Without a belief in something there can be no religion, whether it be true or false. A Christian must have his faith centered in Jesus Christ. A faith in any other person or object will be an errant faith that will be incapable of pleasing God. Even here some profess to find options. They see Jesus as a Good Man or a Great Teacher but fail to see Him as a Suffering Saviour or a Risen Lord. Others feel it optional whether they must believe in His Virgin Birth, His Sinless Life, His Atoning Death and His Redeeming Resurrection or not. These

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.
MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802
RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355
HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340
JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

are not options; without a true belief in Jesus, how can they find a hope of salvation in Him?

Even where belief is found, repentance becomes an option for many. They can believe in Jesus but somehow fail to see a need for a sorrow for their sins or a change in the way they live. They fail to see the displeasure their sins cause God, so they continue in them. Repentance is not an option to be taken or left.

Then, even if repentance is acknowledged, for most baptism becomes an option. It is to them something to be done for a deeper committment to God. They forget the many positive commands surrounding baptism and its place in the process of rebirth. As Jesus came forth from the dusty grave to a new life so a believer must come forth from the watery grave to a new Spiritual life. Many reject it as "works" forgetting that faith itself is the first work commanded by God.

For many, the Christian life ends right here, even if they see the necessity of faith, repentance and baptism. To them this encompasses the plan of salvation, so all else becomes mere options. The commands delivered to us, through the pages of the New Testament by the Holy Spirit moving through Godly men, are to be carried out, not reasoned away. If God had considered them to be optional appendages, He would not have used His Holy Word to deliver to us that which was of no consequence or need. God's Spiritual law has no unnecessary appendages, no matter how much out of favor they may be in the world's eyes. Whether His law concerns our dress, our actions, our belief or our practises, each part and detail is for our benefit and His Glory. Noah's ark was built according to God's plan, even down to small details, and it proved to be for his salvation. Should we reject God's plan which is given for our salvation?

The keeping of God's commands is put on both a positive and a negative basis. The positive side is contained in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Here He appeals to our best side - a desire to show our love to the One who gave His All for us. The negative side is stated in Matthew 7:21-23. "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Those who choose what is needful and what is optional need to beware lest their future experience will be as Jesus warns here. They will find what they considered "options" to be stumbling blocks to their future bliss.

Is the Christian life and God's commands but an option for you? If so; please consider what your future may hold for you. Are "options" going to be your downfall?

PRAISING GOD

It is only natural for Christians to praise God, because of the wonderful things He has blessed us with. He has given us the necessities of life, as well as the promises in Christ and the gift of eternal life.

David was constantly praising God, in Psalms 9:1-2, he says, "I will praise thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee; I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High." David could praise God because God had given him victory over his enemies. Again, he could praise God because God had forgiven him of his sins.

We have the same reasons to praise Him, plus the hope we have in Christ. I have been afflicted with a bad heart, but I have many things to be thankful for. I can still be up, and study and write articles for the Monitor. We see many in worse circumstances than we are, therefore I give thanks.

Acts 16:25, ". . .Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God; and the prisoners heard them." They praised God even though they were in stocks and suffering unjustly.

In Hebrews 2:12, Paul says, ". . .in the midst of the church will I sing praise. . ." Jesus and His apostles sang an hymn, after the supper in the upper room. And so the church comes together today to sing praise to God.

Paul, in Hebrews 13:15, tells us how to praise God, for he says, "By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Here, Paul tells us to give thanks continually and he tells what we are to praise him with. Notice he says with "the fruit of our lips." God, when specifying how a thing was to be done, intended for it to be done that way. No other way will please God. Any other way is a transgression of the Word of God.

For instance, when God told Noah how to build the ark and what material to use, no other way would do. Who would deny this fact? In Hebrews 12:2, Paul says, "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith." Hebrews 2:3, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord." Then, it is needful that we go by what is taught in the New Testament on this matter and all other subjects. Notice, Paul tells us to praise God with the fruit of our lips; this excludes all other ways of praising God. But some will say that the word "psalm" in the New Testament means to "praise God on an instrument." But I want you to notice that in the Young's Analytical Concordance the words "on an instrument" is in brackets. Why? Because the New Testament does not teach that we are to use mechanical instruments as are used in worship today. The New Testament doesn't leave us without instruction on this point, for in Ephesians 5:19, Paul

tells us what instrument is to accompany our singing. Notice what he says. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Here, Paul tells us what is to accompany our singing and that is the heart. I don't understand why men will disregard the Word of God and use other methods that are not found in the New Testament. Then they try to justify themselves, even though their practice is not found in the New Testament.

The first time instruments were used in the Christian worship of God occurred over 500 years after Jesus left this world and that by the Roman Catholic Church. So those that use instruments today are following the Catholic Church instead of God's Word. I am glad that the Dunkard Brethren Church is willing to follow God's Word. Let us not give up the precious Word.

It might be interesting to quote from the Ante-Nicaean Fathers, Volume 2, pages 248, 249, "Let the pipe be resigned to the shepherds, and the flute to the superstitious who are engaged in idolatry. For, in truth such instruments are to be banished from the temperate banquets, being more suitable to beasts than men. . . We no longer employ the ancient psaltery, and trumpet, and flute, which those expert in war and contemners of the fear of God were wont to make use of also in the choruses at their festive assemblies; that by such strains they might raise their dejected minds." So we see how the early Church considered the use of instruments in the worship of God.

- Brother W. E. Bashor
867 Lorna Dr., Glen Ellen, Calif. 95442

SOUTH FULTON

sermon by Bro. Harley Rush

Text - "Following Afar Off" Luke 22:54

We have the same picture of Peter following afar off in Matthew 26:58 and Mark 14:54.

We are not saying we are following afar off. Each of us knows whether we are truly following Him. My thought is that this Scripture is first of all for our personal good.

The word "follow" means "to pursue or seek." There are a great many "followings" over the world. I think too many and I believe God would say, "too many followings of man." There are hundreds of denominations throughout the world, but there is only one church in the sight of God, the Church of Jesus Christ, not a church that follows

after some man. I can't understand why there are so many denominations, although in the latter days this will take place. Some person has a different idea; it continues to spread as he gains followers. Each thinks he looks on the world as it is or should be. I believe the time we are living in has too many "Professors" and not enough "Possessors." They do not possess things that pertain to Right and Truth.

Maybe, Peter didn't intend purposely to deny Christ. He was like some of us today. We want to be like others - to look, dress and act - so we will be accepted by our friends to avoid being mocked. I say, "Let them mock!"

I confess before God I used to be weak in this line - that is, to be like the world. I did not have the purpose in my heart or the power to overcome the fear of the world knowing that I knew Jesus, the Christ.

It is so apparent with all. We are too much like Peter of old. He did not want people at the palace to know that he knew Jesus. But those in the court knew he had been with the Christ, by his speech, manners and dress. He told a downright lie when he said, "I do not know Him."

When Jesus was accused He gave no answer. Our situation is the same. Keep quiet and let your life speak for you.

Just reading the Bible, itself only, will not save you if you live as the world does. It is denying the blood if we read and do not.

So many times, we think of the children of Israel and how God brought them out of bondage to prepare them for the land of the future. We should be looking forward to that land also. God told them they must get rid of their idols or they would miss the Promised Land. They promised to obey and for a little while they did but then they went back to idol worship again.

It behooves you and me that we do not follow afar off; do not deny Him but serve Him. People may ask, "How can you follow or serve one whom you have not seen? We must see to believe." It is through the eye of faith that we believe the Word of God, not the physical eye.

Men organize denominations and multitudes are falling into a lost condition. II Peter 2:15 says, "Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness." Is not that true today? People are enticed with these things. How sad this is. When the devil gets an inroad into the heart of a man there is a turning and a falling.

"Am I a God at hand, saith the Lord, and not a God afar off." Jeremiah 23:23. We read, He is "the same yesterday and today, and forever" - ever present, ever near at hand. If we have never experienced this we have missed a great blessing. Sometimes when He seems afar off, He is right with us and answers our prayers. That draws us closer to Him. We have a promise in Acts 2:38-39, "Repent, and be baptized every one of

you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." The promise He gave was that we might stand. How thankful we ought to be for this promise. I think of the NEED of us keeping our promise to Him, too.

Ephesians 2:13 and 17, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ . . . And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh."

The sole purpose of Christ coming to earth was that all should be saved. The longer I try to serve Christ in this work, the more I realize I have a greater responsibility and a need to preach to the outsider and the near throughout the world.

Hebrews 11:13. "These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." You and I are but strangers and pilgrims in this world, preparing for that great beyond.

Ephesians 5:1, "Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children." This is a great admonition. We are to follow God like dear children who love and follow their earthly father, who loveth and "pitieth His children." We are unworthy in His sight but He has compassion on earlthly parents because He loves them. We will follow God, in a spiritual way, if we love Him as we do our parents.

Hebrews 6:12, "That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." We know we will inherit the promised land only through faith and patience.

Multitudes will say, "I will do," then they turn and deny Him. We cannot do that. It takes stedfast action. Peter said, "I will love thee," then denied Him. Jonah said "I won't go." He thought he would escape, but it didn't work. When Jonah saw himself as God saw him, He repented and went.

May God help us today and from this day on, to follow and serve and prepare for salvation. Let us go forward in unity. May God help us to this end.

- Sister Elta K. Blythe
822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois 61455

The body is the shell of the soul, and dress the husk of that shell; but the husk often tells what the kernel is.

GENERAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM

of the

DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH

To be held at

CLEONA UNITED CHRISTIAN CAMP GROUND

Cleona, Pa.

FROM JUNE 5 - 9, 1976

PREACHING PROGRAM

TIME	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	TEXT
Sat. P.M.	Virgil Leatherman	"What Time Is It?"	Roms. 13:11-14
Sat. P.M.	Carl Broadwater		To Be Supplied
Sat. Eve.	H. Edward Johnson	"The Everlasting Covenant"	Heb. 13:20
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School	Children - "Choosing Rebecca for Isaac"	Gen. 24:1-67
Sun. A.M.	Emery Wertz	"In the Beginning GOD"	Gen. 1:1
Sun. A.M.	Allen Eberly	"Set Thine House In Order"	II Kings 20:1
Sun. P.M.	Howard Surbey	"Be Ye Also Ready"	Matt. 24:44
Sun. P.M.	Warren Smith	"For What Is Your Life?"	James 4:14
Sun. Eve.	Ray Reed	"Investments & Life Insurance"	Luke 12:34
Sun. Eve.	Dean St. John	(To the Young People)	To Be supplied
Mon. A.M.	BIBLE STUDY	Children - "Choosing David for King" Adults - "Wisdom"	I Sam. 16:1-23 Prov. 3:13-35
Mon. A.M.	Milton Cook	"Heavenly Treasures in Earthen Vessels"	II Cor. 4:1-18
Mon. P.M.	Gene Kauffman	"The Price of Success"	I Tim. 4:13
Mon. P.M.	Rudy Cover	"Peter, Put Up Your Sword"	Luke 22:35-38 John 18:1-14
Mon. Eve.	Harley Rush	"Following Afar Off"	Luke 22:54
Mon. Eve.	Chas. Leatherman	"The Hope of Glory"	Col. 1-27
Tues. A.M.	BIBLE STUDY	Children - "A Choice to be Made" Adults - "Thoughts & Actions"	Joshua 24:14-31 Eccl. 5:1-20
Tues. A.M.	Robert Carpenter		To Be Supplied
Tues. P.M.	David Skiles	Missionary Program	To Be Supplied
Tues. Eve.	William Carpenter	"Go Ye Into All The World"	Mark 16:15

THE HEART OF A PIG

What do you think the heart of a pig is like? What is your own like? Of course, it is a muscular organ resembling an Indian wigwam in shape, which pumps blood to every part of the body. It is very small in comparison to our total size, but if it stops working, we will die. This is our natural heart. We also have a spiritual heart, the very center of our being.

It can't be seen, but we know it's there, for this heart-center is the basis for everything we do. Thoughts start there, then the actions follow, which reveal what our hearts are like.

A pig doesn't have a soul, but from his heart comes the characteristics by which you know he is a pig, rather than a dog or cat. It determines his whole way of life. As long as his heart remains unchanged, he will continue to act like just what he is; a dirt-loving pig! So it is with us. As long as our hearts are unchanged, we will act like just what we are: a sinner with an impure heart.

A speaker at a children's assembly used a live pig to demonstrate our need for a new heart. He and his assistant gave a small, white pig a bath with soap and water and put a bow around his neck. The pig didn't object, so he was soon sparkling clean on the outside. But what about the inside? Do you think it had been changed? He then gave the pig a pile of dirt, immediately the pig began to root. He was clean outside, but his heart was still the same and he returned to his old ways. He still loved the dirt.

Our spiritual heart reveals what we are and who we are living for. If our hearts are filled with sin, we will have sinful characteristics. If our hearts are transformed through Christ, we will have Godly characteristics. "A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things." Matthew 12:35. We are born with a sinful heart and must undergo a change to receive a pure heart, which will bring forth good things. This change must be from the inside out.

You can reform a person (or yourself) on the outside, making him look good, like the pig did after his bath. But if the heart is not changed, he will soon return to his old way. The Pharisees cleaned the outside of the cup and plate, but the filth was on the inside. Their outward appearance of righteousness was worthless when the inside was full of sin. (see Matt. 23:28) The pig still had the same heart, so he was not interested in a clean life. He needed a transformation, not a reformation, if he were to maintain a different way of life. We, too, must be transformed; an outward change is not enough.

You can not be touched by God's love and remain the same, for His love and transforming power changes you from the heart out. "Therefore

if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. Through His Son, God made it possible for us to be changed within. He knew we would need a new heart; He loved us to the extent that He provided for that need. When we are changed through Christ, we begin loving and serving God.

As new creatures in Christ, we will want to be obedient to Him, just as He was to His Father. This means accepting Christ as our Lord as well as our Savior. Christ, as our Lord, is not as a boss, who demands obedience without any consideration of our weaknesses. If we have a willing heart, He will help us. Jesus said, ". . .without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5b. He knows we are helpless without Him, so when Jesus gives us a task, He helps us accomplish it.

David prayed. "Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin . . .Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me." Psalms 51:2, 10. David knew he needed cleansing from the inside out. We need it, too. There's only one way to be cleansed and to receive a new heart; that is by coming to Christ with a repentant heart. When you truly want to be free of your sin, He will forgive. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9.

After getting rid of the old things, Jesus will fill your heart with new things; you won't be the same anymore. With a new heart, you will have joy and contentment in serving God. Your new heart will be a willing heart, one always ready to do God's bidding. You won't want to go back to your old life of sin, as the pig which wanted to be in the dirt again. The pig is not a creature of choice; he cannot choose to change his ways, but will always be a pig. We can, and must, choose to either remain in sin or to have a new heart and life through Christ. Which shall it be? Won't you choose Jesus now and receive a new heart?

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

EPHESUS
Revelation 2:1-7

"Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein; for the time is at hand." Revelation 1:3. These words ring out to us as we study the seven churches of Asia. Revealed to the Apostle John by Jesus Christ in about 96 A.D., we can obtain important lessons as we consider the destination, description of Christ, commendation, rebuke, exortation,

promise, and prophetic applications relative to these churches. We will discuss each one individually in this and future articles.

John, banished to the island of Patmos which is off the western coast of Asia Minor, first discusses the Ephesian church, one that was persistent in service but it was backsliding and its love had grown cold.

As a church of duty without love, it was located in a large city with an excellent harbor. Ephesus was known at this time as the marketplace of Asia. It was also a banking center because of its great vault in the Temple of Diana.

Ephesus was also known as an important religious city. The Temple of Diana, or Artemus as the Greeks called her, was considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. This goddess was the patroness of all the prostitutes of the world and with her many bosomed image represented fertility and sexuality. Many writers in those times noted the immorality of the city.

The production of silver images of Diana by the many silversmiths there was an important part of the Ephesian economy. Devotees of this goddess brought much gain to the city. Black magic was widely practiced and Paul met these occultists head on, leading some of them to Christ.

The Christian church at Ephesus was extremely well taught, having had Paul, Apollos, Timothy, and John as pastors there.

There was much in the church to commend and praise. The believers were zealous of good works and service for the Lord. Twice the letter speaks of how they labored for the name of Christ. These saints knew how to trust the Lord consistently under trial, which is the meaning of the word patience. They had held up under stress and had been faithful.

Doctrinally speaking these believers were not only complacent, but militant in their stand against false teaching. They also labeled immorality, exactly, for what it was and cast out the Nicolaitans. They were false teachers who claimed that since the actions of the body didn't affect the spirit, one could go out and sin up a storm! Sound familiar today? From all outward appearances, the Ephesian church certainly looked like a model one, worthy of high commendation.

Despite all these "pluses" the Lord discerned a deadly danger creeping into their attitudes. They had left their first love--Christ, Himself! Though outwardly warm, they were inwardly cold. Christ alone could see their inward motivation.

The Ephesians were exhorted by Christ to remember and repent. He told them to remember that love is the only acceptable motivation for Christian living. He urges them to repent of their loveless Christian duty and to return instead to the love which they had when they first came to know Him, when they were full of the excitement and wonder of their new relationship with Him.

To the ones who listen and overcome, Jesus promises that they will eat of the Tree of Life in God's everlasting paradise.

The illustrated church at Ephesus is a prophetic picture of the Apostolic Church from A.D. 33 to 100. It is also an important demonstration to today's Christian that one of the most important areas of real faith is a pure motive. We must serve the Lord out of our sincere love for Him rather than only feeling obligated to do so. Let us each new day, strive to love and serve Him better than the day before.

- Brother Leonard Wertz

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

MOSES' FACE SHINES

Exodus 34

When Moses saw the children of Israel worshipping a golden calf instead of God, he was very angry. God had written the Ten Commandments on two tables of stone; Moses threw them down, breaking them to pieces. Now, God told Moses to make two more tables of stone, like the ones he had broken, and God would write upon these the words that had been on the first tables. Moses got up early in the morning and went, with the two tables of stone in his hand, up unto Mt. Sinai, where he met with God in the top of the mountain.

The Lord descended in the cloud and stood there with Moses. The Lord passed by him and said, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth."

Then Moses bowed his head toward the earth and worshipped and said unto God, "If now I have found grace in your sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a stiffnecked people; and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for thine inheritance."

God replied to Moses, "Behold, I make a covenant; before all thy people I will do marvels, such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among you shall see the work of the Lord." God also said He would drive out the nations in the land who were idol worshippers. He would be their God only if they would obey Him. God told Moses many things to tell the people; Moses was upon Mt. Sinai with God forty days and forty nights.

After the forty days, Moses came down from the mountain with the two tables of stone. His face shone with the glory of God so the people were afraid to come near him. Blut Moses called the children of Israel to come near him and he gave them all the commandments that the Lord had given unto him. When Moses had finished speaking he put a veil on his face. After that, whenever Moses went into the tabernacle to talk with God, he took the veil off, but when he came out again he put it back on.

The people could tell that Moses had been with God because his face shone with God's glory. Can others tell that you are a friend of God? Our faces don't shine like Moses' but people ought to know, in some way, that you are a Christian - by the way you look, act and talk. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

- Brother Rudy Cover

OBITUARY

RUSSEL HOFFEDITZ

Adam Russel Hoffeditz, son of J. A. and Celia (Light) Hoffeditz, was born December 30, 1909 at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. He departed this life unexpectedly with a heart attack on December 14, 1975 at age sixty-five years, eleven months, sixteen days.

He came to Story County, Iowa as a young man before coming to Dallas County in 1936.

On November 12, 1939 Russel was married to Sadie Ellen Kesler at Quinter, Kansas, and started farming north of Dallas Center, Iowa.

Two years later they purchased a farm northeast of Minburn, where they resided for thirty-two years. Russel retired in December, 1972, and moved to Perry, Iowa.

Russel accepted Christ as his personal Saviour and lived a truly dedicated life. He was always thoughtful of others and willing to lend a helping hand to those in need.

He leaves to mourn his passing; his wife, Sadie; one brother, Leroy of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; two sisters, Helen Holtry of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and Cornelia Widder of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania; three nieces and three nephews; cousins and friends.

Preceeding him in death were his parents and one sister.

There's an open gate
At the end of the road
Through which each must go alone
And there is a light we cannot see
Our Father claims His own;

Beyond the gate our loved one
Finds happiness and rest
And there is comfort
In the thought
That a loving God knows best.

The funeral was held December 17, 1975 at the Brandt Funeral Home in Dallas Center, Iowa. Elder Joseph Flora, Pastor Millard Haldeman and Elder Ray Reed had charge of the services. Burial was in the Brethren Cemetery.

NEW ITEMS

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Congregation at Ceres, California enjoyed revival meetings from March 21 to 28. Elder D. Paul Reed, from Riner, Virginia, was the evangelist. He gave us Spirit-filled messages, and the power of the Holy Spirit was felt throughout these meetings.

Three boys, Michael Walker, Kenny Cordrey and Karl Litfin accepted Jesus on Sunday evening, March 28, and were baptized after the service.

We thank Brother Paul for his labor and pray that God will bless him abundantly in his future work.

- Sister Esther M. Cover, Cor.

DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL CONFERENCE

General Conference will be held June 5-9, 1976 at the Cleona U. C. Camp Meeting Grounds, Cleona, Pennsylvania 17042. Phone: 717-867-4041.

Those traveling east on Interstate 80, exit at Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, go south to Route 322 through Harrisburg to Hershey, at west end of Hershey get on Route 422. Continue on 422 to Cleona. At the first traffic light turn left on Center Street, go north ½ mile, turn left on Hill Church Road. Cleona U.C. Camp Meeting Grounds are ½ mile, on the left. For others coming on southern routes into Harrisburg, get on 322 East to Hershey. Take 422 at Hershey and follow the same directions as above.

Please bring sheets and pillow cases, if possible.

Are your reservations made?

The Locating Committee

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

The Lord has given us a work
Though humble it may be.
If it is done for pride or show,
How useless it will be.

We need not go to distant land,
This calling to fulfill --
But with our daily work entwined,
We can do our Master's will.

The pitfalls of this task are many,
For oft our minds do stray --
And dwell on vanities of life,
That soon must pass away.

When we this humble work neglect
Our spirit life will suffer --
And lukewarm will be the lot
Of our immortal soul.

And we who are His children here
How negligent we live;
Forgetting what we owe to God,
For His great gift to man.

So let us more effort make
To conquer worldly cares.
For to that happy home above
They cannot guide us there.

- Sister Emma W. Stauffer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE

June 6 - The King Honors Mordecai. Esther 6:1-14

June 13 - The Banquet of Queen Esther. Esther 7:1-10.

June 20 - Mordecai Advanced; Esther Pleads for Her People. Esther 8:1-17.

June 27 - TEMPERANCE - I Tim. 3:1-16.

QUESTIONS:

(1) Whom did Haman think the King would delight to honor? Esther 6:6.

(2) What effect did honoring Mordecai have on Haman? Esther 6:12.

(3) Who did Esther point out to be the enemy of the Jews? Esther 7:5.

(4) Who was hanged on the gallows that he had prepared for another? Esther 7:10.

(5) What position was Mordecai advanced to by the King? Esther 8:2.

(6) What did Esther's plea to King Ahasuerus gain for the Jews? Esther 8:11.

(7) What verse in Proverbs, that we hear quoted often, would apply to Haman? Pro. 16:18.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JUNE 1976

COME

Memory Verse I Cor. 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the time until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Tues. 1 - I Cor. 4:1-21
Wed. 2 - I Cor. 10:1-21
Thur. 3 - I Cor. 11:17-34
Fri. 4 - I Cor. 13:1-13
Sat. 5 - I Cor. 14:1-20

Memory Verse I Cor. 11:26 For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

Sun. 6 - I Cor. 14:21-40
Mon. 7 - I Cor. 15:1-30
Tues. 8 - I Cor. 15:31-58
Wed. 9 - I Cor. 16:1-24
Thur. 10 - II Cor. 1:1-24
Fri. 11 - II Cor. 2:1-17
Sat. 12 - II Cor. 6:1-18

Memory Verse II Cor. 6:17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

Sun. 13 - II Cor. 7:1-16
Mon. 14 - II Cor. 10:1-18
Tues. 15 - II Cor. 12:1-21
Wed. 16 - II Cor. 13:1-14
Thur. 17 - Gal. 2:1-21
Fri. 18 - Gal. 3:1-29
Sat. 19 - Gal. 4:1-31

Memory Verse Gal. 3:14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Sun. 20 - Gal. 5:1-26
Mon. 21 - Eph. 1:1-23
Tues. 22 - Eph. 2:1-22
Wed. 23 - Eph. 4:1-32
Thur. 24 - Eph. 5:1-33
Fri. 25 - Phil. 1:1-30
Sat. 26 - Col. 1:1-29

Memory Verse I Thess. 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

I Thess. 2:19 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

If a man is too busy to worship God on Sunday, he has more business than the Lord intended him to have.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL LIV JUNE 1, 1976 NO. 11

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BLEST BE THE TIE

Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne,
We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part,
It gives us inward pain;
But we shall still be joined in heart,
And hope to meet again.

John Fawcett

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Once again it is time for General Conference. Many have looked forward to this time with a great longing, measuring their year often, by the length of time until the next Conference. Why is this five-day meeting so important to the Brethren and Sisters scattered across this land? Why do these people pause from their usual occupations to spend a great deal of time, money and effort to travel to General Conference?

Conference is a time devoted to the fellowship of the Saints, the worship of God and the business of the Church. The world, with its wars, uprisings, immorality and carnality, is shut out for a few days. General Conference seems to us a foretaste of Heaven. The loud, the vulgar, the sensual and the proud are excluded to the world where they belong.

A General Conference provides sweet fellowship for the children of God who gather from their scattered and isolated homes. Here is the opportunity to be with, visit with and worship with those of like precious faith. When scattered widely across this broad land, it is easy for the members to feel discouraged. God's remnant has always been small but it seems even smaller in these evil days. For these discouraged members to meet others on this occasion helps to encourage them to continue in the faith, knowing there are others who not only believe the same but who also face the same discouraging conditions. Conference makes for a renewed faith and courage. The scattered condition of the Brotherhood also gives Satan the opportunity to sow the seeds of disunity. Because of imperfect communications and Satan's seeds of distrust, Brethren in one area may come to disagree with the Brethren

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

elsewhere. The journey to General Conference often proves beneficial as those, who have let a wall of distrust or disagreement grow up between them, meet in Christian fellowship and find that their differences are so very minor compared to all that they do agree on. Satan does not approve of General Conference since it works against the distinctive devices that he launches against the Brethren.

For a Bible-believing people the worship of God is very necessary. General Conference is a time of worship. The singing is Heavenly, the prayers are powerful and the various Bible-studies are instructive as God's People meet to worship Him. The preaching of God's Word, not of idle and vain philosophies of men, is the center of worship. New thoughts from the Scriptures are gleaned as the Brethren preach through the meeting. Old truths never become too-well-known but what they have value for our Christian walk-of-life, as we hear them again repeated. General Conference would not be the instructive and encouraging meeting it is, if it were not for the many timely messages from the Bible. Without this regard for the Bible, General Conference would be just another social meeting.

The Bible not only serves as the basis for the preaching and the other means of worship at Conference but is also the basis for the business that is transacted there. The Apostles and other believers in the Early Church gathered at Jerusalem to consider what was the best course for the Church concerning the circumcision question that bothered many. Rather than each group of believers in various parts of the Church deciding their individual course, the question was taken to Jerusalem where the leaders of the Church-at-large could consider the best answer. ". . .in the multitude of counsellors there is safety." The description of this Conference at Jerusalem in Acts 15 offers a pattern for today's Conference. Delegates were sent from various congregations, who were received by the Apostles and elders; they reached a decision on this query regarding this disruptive question, after a time of fellowship, worship, report and discussion. After the decision was reached, a report (the minutes) was sent to the various congregations; all these things are yet to be seen at General Conference.

The first Conference to be held by the Brethren was in May, 1742 in Pennsylvania. It was held in response to the synods held under the auspices of Count Zinzendorf. Those synods were an attempt at a union of the various German-speaking religious bodies in Pennsylvania. The aim may have been noble but the means were unbiblical. The union was to be effected without regard to Biblical doctrine. The Brethren called their own Conference to discuss these synods and to reaffirm their stand on the Bible's doctrine. Ever since, General Conference has been meeting to consider the Church's business and to reaffirm the Church's stand on the Bible.

General Conference is important because it offers a yearly opportunity for the Church to fellowship, worship and do its business.

A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

If you don't eat, you will die! Food is very necessary to life, therefore eating is a matter of life and death. We need to eat regularly if we are to be as healthy as we should be. A meal once a week, or even once a day, isn't sufficient to maintain good health. Not eating at all creates a real emergency. Does it not make sense then that we surely need Spiritual food regularly to maintain a healthy Spiritual life? Receiving Spiritual food only occasionally means we are starving our souls. It is soon a real emergency, a matter of Spiritual life and death.

Natural food is usually served at a table, but wherever food is served, you must eat it if it is to do you any good. So it is in our Spiritual lives. Each worship service is a time to be fed, as well as a time to praise God. The food is there; it is served regularly; it's up to you to come and get it. If you don't, you will starve spiritually. Spiritual death results when you do not feed regularly on God's Word, the food for your soul.

Jesus wants us to be alive and well spiritually. He has already provided for salvation and given us God's Word. His Word is necessary for Christian growth, and it contains something for everyone at every stage of growth. "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." I Peter 2:2. There are simple truths to get you started growing. Also the meat of the Word is for the more mature believer, who has more experience. (Read Hebrews 5:12-14). You should feed yourself as often as possible in personal devotions and publicly in worship services. You need both and it is a personal responsibility. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25. We are to meet together often with other Christians. Why? Because we need each other. A live, burning coal will soon cool off and go out when removed from a fire. Those still together remain burning. A Christian who removes himself from other believers soon goes out spiritually. He needs the warmth of Christian love, the spiritual food, the fellowship with God's people to help him stay alive and on fire for his Lord.

A little child must be fed tiny amounts until he is ready to eat more. Some do not readily accept new foods, closing their lips tightly until they get a taste, which changes their attitude. An older child resents being fed; he wants to help himself, but an adult must supervise so the

meal is balanced. An adult can choose a well-balanced meal without supervision. Which are you, spiritually? Can you reach out and take the spiritual food offered to you? Can you look into God's Word and help yourself to the good things there, which give you life? We all need time alone with God, to commune with Him and to seek His will for our individual lives. Public worship alone is not enough.

When a child is sick, we prepare light, nourishing food and take it to him. We know he needs food, but not too much, lest we cause further problems. We may likewise need to take spiritual food to one who is spiritually sick, one who will not come and feed himself. We should give only the amount which can be absorbed at one time, lest we cause further discouragement. Too much at once may bring a feeling that the Way of the Cross is too difficult, so there's no use to try. We want to encourage and help them to live for Christ. When you take God's Word to those in trouble spiritually, you need to approach them in love and convey your concern, so they will know you are genuinely interested, not just criticizing. Souls are spoken of as "precious" or "dear," when they decide to serve the Lord. How precious is that soul to you before that point? Then, how precious are they to you when they get sidetracked and don't grow? Are they still precious or just a nuisance? Your attitude may make the difference between eternal life and eternal death for them; so be very careful.

We pray for those who are discouraged and not attending worship services, but maybe we're not praying for the right people. Maybe the real problem is us. We are to present Christ and His love and mercy when we point out sin. Correction without love only stirs up rebellion; this is like giving a whipping without love. We don't use such an approach when correcting a child, except when it's someone else's! Sin is the disease which causes spiritual sickness. Christ is the only remedy, the only way to become well spiritually.

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever." John 6:51a. It is truly a matter of life and death when we present Christ to someone. Jesus has promised eternal life to those who accept and serve Him; He has promised eternal death to those who reject Him. Make it a matter of life for your soul. Choose Jesus, the Bread of Life.

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

If well thou hast begun, go on; it is the end that crown us, not the fight. - Herrick.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

Smyrna, Poor and Persecuted, But Rich!

Smyrna was about forty miles north of Ephesus and was considered the safest seaport of its time. It had a thriving economy because it was on the main trade route from Rome to India and Persia. Alexander the Great personally planned the city. It was called the "ornament of Asia" because of its beauty and splendor. Many Jews lived there, yet Smyrna was overwhelmingly pagan. On one end of the main street, the "street of gold," stood the Temple of Cybele, the mother of the gods. Smyrna was also the center of emperor worship in the Roman Empire, boasting a temple to Tiberius Ceasar.

Because the believers of Smyrna were experiencing severe suffering and even martyrdom, Jesus refers to Himself as the One who had suffered and died but is now alive. Because He conquered death, they will conquer it too; as the First and the Last, He has already tasted death for each believer and removed its sting.

The Lord assures the Smyrnan believers that He knows about their faithful service despite great persecution and poverty. They are actually very rich in His sight, even though they have lost everything in this life for His sake, because they are earning eternal rewards.

The Smyrnan believers were victims of the "ten percenters." These people reported Christians to the Roman government and were rewarded with ten percent of the "heretics" property. The believers were thus often wiped out financially and many ended up martyred or in prison.

Eventually, Christians were given only one choice: bow to Caesar as lord or be put to a horrible death. Faithful believers answered with the vow that is forever written in God's hall of fame: "Jesus Christ is Lord and none other."

By denying that Ceasar was divine, the Jews were as persecuted as the Christians, since it was unthinkable for a devout Jew to worship anyone but Jehovah. In an attempt to take some of the heat off themselves, some Jews evidently turned in Christians to the officials and caused a great deal of persecution for them.

There is not one word of rebuke for the Smyrnan church, which in itself suggests a great lesson. A church or individual suffering persecution for his faith is usually more devout and faithful than a comfortable, untested believer.

A European Christian leader who made frequent trips behind the Iron Curtain to visit the churches found amazing examples of faith and devotion to Christ. The members of one church, that was undergoing considerable persecution, said that they were praying for God to send

persecution upon their western Brothers so they might also be purified. Corrie Ten Boom, the Dutch survivor of the Nazi Concentration Camps, told of another thrilling triumph in persecution. A group of believers were meeting in a church in an Iron Curtain country when the church door burst open and two Russian soldiers with submachine guns strode in. They said they would give five minutes for anyone who wished to renounce Christ to leave, while those who stayed would be shot immediately. As each person searched his heart for the courage to face death, a few got up and left. The officers then walked to the door of the church, locked it, and turned to the congregation with these words, "Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are believers, too, but we did not want to worship where everyone was not completely committed to Christ and willing to die for Him. May we become a part of your fellowship?"

The believers at Smyrna were encouraged by Jesus to face the coming trials and suffering for "ten days." Jesus said they would be given a "crown of life" as an eternal reward. Some scholars believe that the ten days of persecution refers to the ten eras of persecution under ten diabolical Caesars, from Nero in A.D. 64 to Diocletian, A.D. 312.

The one who heeds the message and overcomes by faith is promised that, though he may die physically, he will never face the second death - eternal torment in hell.

Comparison of this church might be made to the Church in A.D. 100-312. The suffering of the church at Smyrna was prophetic of the great era of persecution under the ten Caesars. The motives of the church were purified during this long and difficult period. Many Christians met cruel, martyrs' deaths rather than renounce Christ or swear allegiance to Caesar as lord. People who have visited the Coliseum in Rome say that the foundations are still stained with the blood of martyrs.

Let us each one strive, during these difficult times and through even more severe conditions possible in the future, to remain closely allied with our Saviour.

- Brother Leonard Wertz

Don't always think you are on the right path just because it's well-traveled.

If you want to be remembered, forget yourself and do something for someone else.

ALL

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." I Cor. 10:31.

Webster defines the word "all" as the whole quantity, substance, duration, extent, amount or degree of. Therefore, it follows that "ALL" is the total being. In the Christian life, every thought, word and act must be in subjection to God's Word.

In this article, I would like to show some of the ways in which professed Christiandom often comes short in what seems to be small things or in ways that does not seem to matter. The wise man, Solomon, said it is the little foxes that spoil the vines. Song of Sol. 2:15. Small foxes nibble and chew, but they grow up and become predators. So our small sins grow up and take control of us and our children.

We think our thought-life is hidden when we think on evil, but God knows our thought-life, whether we feast on His Word or think about the lust of the flesh. A record is also made of our thoughts and will meet us at the last day, if wrong thoughts are not repented of. The world also reads our thought-life. The things we are interested in, the things we talk about, the jokes we listen to and tell are all true indices of our inner man. "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

By-words, such as "gosh," "golly," "gee," "darn," "blame-it," "I bet," etc. become habit and slip out almost unnoticed, but they are actually condensed swear words. God and the world take notice of the Christian, who use them. Whatsoever is more than yea, yea and nay, nay is sin. Matt. 5:37. Foolish talking and jesting is condemned. (Eph. 5:4). "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. Matt. 12:34-36.

We hear a lot today about fun, fun at the ball game, fun at the skating rink, and fun at more or less similar things. Christians should watch that word "fun," and particularly everything it attaches itself to, especially for adult people. Paul said, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things." I Cor. 13:11. We are living in a day the Bible speaks of as when men shall be "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." "Fun," Webster says is, "pleasure, mirth, amusement, play." Do you know, the word "fun" is not in the Bible? The Christian has peace, joy, and gladness in his heart; he will think, do, and act out those things that produce more peace, joy and gladness in his life and the lives of others. But fun appeals to the shortlived emotions and lusts of the car

nal man. The only pleasure a sinner has is carnal pleasure, the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life; he has no hope, no promise of a future reward so he strives for the pleasures of the flesh in this world. A born-again saint is a person transformed from the love of the carnal to the love of God, who knows that his eternal reward will come at the end of the race. Old things are empty, vain and repulsive to him; the love of God is his all-in-all, that cannot be taken away from him.

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Matt. 7:20. Dear Reader, what do our fruits signify to others? Do they really show forth the works of God, or of the carnal man? Think of these things, for the time is short.

The carnal man also craves music and gossip. About every business place, office, convalescent home, private home and automobile, are equipped with something--televisions, radios, record players, Cee Bee's, walkie-talkies, to produce sound. These are inanimate objects and can be used for good or bad. But sorry to say, they are much of the time used for bad, since man is carnal and they seem to be given over to think evil almost continually. Such things distract the mind and keep the listener from meditating on God's Word. Do you know that Jubal, grandson of Cain, was the father of musical instruments? Gen. 4:21. His father and mother were the first recorded adulterers. Music and adultery often go together. Music is being used over the air and in the schools to jam and weaken the minds of people. This especially works on the minds of the young people. Many a song, even hymns, are sometimes put with mind-jamming music. Much music does not seem evil (nor to the glory of God either) so parents let their children listen, right in the home, to the children's detriment. I have read that if all television and radio stations, nationwide, would at a given time play revolutionary music, it would throw the United States into a revolution. We should be thanking God that it has not yet happened, instead of listening to the music. When we get away from all the things that are not a glory to God, we will be singing ". . .psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Eph. 5:19.

How can the truly born again person wear flashy clothing, drive a flashy-colored car, build or furnish an extravagant home, do many other extravagant things, or spend their money for things that only feed their ego? Which man, the carnal or spiritual, do these things satisfy? Can they satisfy either one? "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Pro. 16:18.

Our children are the most priceless possessions we have, yet Christian people send their children off to the public school system, blindfolded seemingly, to learn from the powers of darkness that be at work to destroy their minds and souls. Jesus said, "When the Son of man cometh shall he find faith on the earth?" ". . .As it was in the days of

Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man." Luke 17:26. The cunning, deceptive forces at work in the public school system are a great factor in fulfilling the prophecy of this scripture. Each generation has been prepared to be the parents of each succeeding generation by being taught to crowd God out of their lives and to look to man for their earthly needs, which, they tell us, will be all we need since there will be no Hereafter, either good or bad. I can understand why my parents said when I went to school that the school system was not nearly as good as when they went. All I can say is, "Parents please get informed as to what is going on in the public school system and take advantage of good private Christian schools and do all you can to save your children." It is late!

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed; For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." II John 10:11. There is much false teaching everywhere. It behooves every one, who names the name of Christ, to be an alert Bible student, in order to discern good from evil in our own lives, in the preached word, and in writings, or he will find himself blown about with many winds of devilish doctrines. If we keep a false teacher outside our door, but yet let our homes be invaded by books, magazines, and literature of every description, be it false religion, novels, mystery stories, love stories, pornography, comics or magazines, we cannot justly claim to be doing all things to the glory of God. The very presence of these things in our homes leave a spiritual-weakening impression on those who see it and discourages the abiding of the Holy Spirit.

Also notice our text says, "whether . . . you eat, or drink, . . .do all to the glory of God." The wise man Solomon said, "And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties; for they are deceitful meat." Pro. 23:2-3. Yet Church members consume the tasty, rich foods and soft drinks that destroy the body. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." I Cor. 3:17. God gave us our bodies for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, if we are obedient and do all to the glory of God we will be greatly benefitted spiritually, physically, and mentally.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Heb. 10:25. As laxness has come into the school system, so it has come in spiritual gatherings such as prayer meeting, visiting the needy, and in doing mission work. We should daily study the Bible, prayerfully, and be alert Bible students and witnesses. We should know what it says and teach it to our children, so we all can give a reason for the hope that we have within us. The Bible says we should

ever have His Word before us and talk about it constantly so we do not forget it. (Read Deut. 6:7-9). Satan is using the same plan, but he is supplying his advertisements of evil. They are working to destroy men's souls, while Christians are led to believe we should not talk about religion because it is not a popular subject.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." I John 2:15-17.

If we are Christ's, we will have the Spirit of Christ. (Rom. 8:9). Our day-to-day living and talking will be directed by His Spirit. Matt. 7:24-27 describes two houses, one built on the Rock, the other on the sand. If three corners of a house are built on a solid rock, but the fourth corner rests on the sand, when the great floods come, who can insure the endurance of that house? On what is your house, my house, built? The storm clouds have gathered, the great torrents of satan's flood have already begun to beat on our houses. Many houses have already fallen; many more will fall. The time is at hand, if we want to enjoy the Gloryland and if we want our children there with us (and who does not?), to pull ourselves and our children out of the things of the world and away from the lusts of the carnal man and get on the firing line for Christ and His Kingdom.

I would like to share with my readers a Scottish verse, I ran across, that puts iron into our blood:

Who sticketh to God in stable trust
As Zions' mount he stands full just,
Which moveth no wit, nor yet doth reel.
But standeth forever as stiff as steel!

Submitted, humbly, by
Sister Ruth M. Snyder
R.D. 2, Box 129, Oakland, Maryland 21550

Let men laugh, if they will, when you sacrifice desire to duty - you have time and eternity to rejoice in. - Parker.

God always has an angel of help for those who are willing to do their duty. - Cuyler.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

ISRAEL COMPLAINS

Numbers 11:1-35

Do you ever complain when you have it good? It is a strange thing, but that seems to be the time when people complain the most. God was good to Israel. He delivered them from slavery, overcame their enemies, fed them with bread from heaven, gave them water to drink in a dry and thirsty land and led them with a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. God had given them Moses, to be their leader. As long as Israel obeyed God, they were blessed abundantly but when they disobeyed God, He sometimes punished them.

The children of Israel complained. They were tired of eating manna. They wanted something else for a change. They remembered the fish that could be had in abundance in Egypt from the river Nile - all they could eat - just for the taking. Egypt was a fertile land; the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic were full of flavor. Israel forgot, what God had done for them, and complained and wept because they couldn't have their cake and eat it too. This only means that they couldn't have their freedom without some hardships. God was taking them to the Promised Land - a land flowing with milk and honey. A land that was to be their home and country, where there were orchards and vineyards and plenty to eat. But first, they had to cross the great wilderness that was between Egypt and the land God would give them. You would surely think that the people could get along without their melons and cucumbers for a little while. They had plenty to eat and I'm sure it was the best food, but they got tired of it. They were like people today who live in this great country, America; they had it too good. Their shoes and their clothes didn't wear out. They had every reason to be happy but they complained to God and asked Moses to give them flesh to eat. Moses said to God, "How can we give these people meat to eat? There are too many. We haven't enough of our flocks and herds to feed them, neither can we give them fish."

The Lord said unto Moses, "Is the Lord's hands waxed short?" which means, "Isn't God able to do anything?" And God said, "You shall see now whether my word shall come to pass unto you or not."

The Lord caused a wind to blow, which brought forth quails from the sea; they fell on the ground around the camp as far as a man could walk in a day in any direction. Can you imagine how many quails that would be? They gathered the quails and dried the meat, so it would keep; there was enough to last them for a whole month.

When the people began to eat, while the meat was still in their mouth, the Lord smote the people with a great plague or sickness and many died because they had complained to God when He had been so good to them.

Do we think sometimes that we have it tough and that nobody cares? We want a change. If you ever feel like this, remember, how good you have it and count your blessings. I think you will find that God has indeed been good to you.

- Brother Rudy Cover

SOUTH FULTON

Sermon by Elder William Carpenter

Job 26:7, He ". . .hangeth the earth upon nothing" and He is without end. There is a little two-letter word that describes God. That word is "So." God "so" loved the world that He gave His only begotten son.

There are those who teach there is no God. There are those who are agnostics. They doubt that there is a God. They have nothing to look forward to except that one day when they know they are going to die. They believe the Bible is just the thoughts of good men.

The holy men spoke as they were directed by God. Moses was THE man of God. Much of the Bible was written by ignorant and unlearned men but their devout consecration inspires us to apply our hearts with wisdom.

The wisdom of God is peaceable and easy to be entreated but the wisdom of man is sensual and devilish. Man was created upright, but he sought out many inventions and tried to make himself a name. He is doing many wonderful things but one of these days God is going to intervene. Man can even now make a certain cell of humans in a test tube.

We should have a fear of the kind that makes us fear that we will not be among the people of God.

When Adam and Eve were tempted in the Garden of Eden, it was not a full victory for the devil, but only temporary, for God had a plan through Abraham.

Man has not been able to conquer the elements of this universe, when they walk on the moon they must take their own supply of air. God is still in control.

He did more than just forgive our sins, He promised us a new life. II Cor. 5:17, ". . .if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: . . . all things are become new."

If we lose out a little, we must come again to Him for forgiveness and strive harder. Above all this is the message that we be Ambassadors to tell others of Jesus. We must be as little children so we can look to God for our help and direction.

"...Eye hath not seen, nor ear hear, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."

- Sister Elta K. Blythe
822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois

NEWS ITEMS

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Revival Meetings will be held at the Walnut Grove Congregation, Lord willing, June 11 through June 20. Elder Paul Reed, Riner, Virginia, will be the speaker. Come and worship with us.

- Sister Betty Shelly, Cor.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Mechanicsburg Dunkard Brethren Church is holding its annual revival meeting beginning June 11, 1976 until June 20, 1976. Brother Paul Hartz will be our Evangelist. Please come praying.

- Sister Carolyn Peffer, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation enjoyed two weeks of revival meetings with Bro. Fred Pifer as our evangelist. Bro. Pifer brought to us many spirit-filled messages. We were made to rejoice for two young souls who gave their hearts to the Lord. We were happy to have Sister Diane and Rebecca with us during these meetings. May the Lord Bless Bro. Pifer as he labors in the Master's service.

Lovefeast services were held in the Bethel Congregation April 25. Ministers with us throughout the day were Elder George Replogle, Englewood, Ohio; Elder Allen Eberly and Brother Jack Snyder, Lititz, Pennsylvania.

In the evening 160 surrounded the Lord's table with Elder Replogle officiating.

- Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

NEWBERG, OREGON

We have recently experienced some welcome times of refreshing. Late in March we had a surprise visit from Eld. and Sis. Emery Wertz of McClave, Colorado. Bro. Wertz gave us two inspiring messages on Sunday.

On April 8, Eld. Paul Reed of Riner, Virginia began a week of meetings for us ending April 15. The Spirit-filled messages, delivered so ably and earnestly, have left us feeling greatly uplifted and revived. While no one stepped out on the Lord's side, we feel that the work done will not have been in vain--that in due time, the seed sown will grow and bear fruit. We shall pray to this end.

The District Meeting of the Fourth District convened here over the week-end of April 16-18. The time was well filled. The evening before the business meeting and afterwards at various times, several of the visiting ministers delivered Gospel messages to us. They included Eld. Paul Reed of Virginia, Bro. Milton Cook of the Winterhaven Congregation, California, Eld. Clyde Schultz and Bro. Rudy Cover of the Pleasant Home Congregation, California. There was a splendid representation of members from California for which we were most thankful--twenty-two in all (including children).

The communion, which took place on Saturday evening, was officiated by Eld. Galen Harlacher of Newberg. We cannot remember when the tables were so well filled. This was a great inspiration to us. Words cannot express our appreciation to our evangelist and all the others who traveled so many miles to be with us. Memories of these good times in the Lord will linger long. We trust that we may have the privilege of enjoying more such occasions in the future as the Lord wills and directs. May God bless everyone.

- Sister Elsie Harlacher, Cor

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"I know what my conscience is," an Indian gentleman explained. It is a little three-cornered thing in here," he said, laying his hand on his heart, "that stands still when I am good; but when I am bad, it turns around, and the corners hurt very much. But if I keep on doing wrong, by and by the corners wear off and it doesn't hurt anymore."

The most depraved moral condition is for one to arrive at the place where the conscience no longer bothers him; where he buries resentments in a mind so filled already that it does not notice another; where one can steal and not be disturbed unless he is caught. The loss of conscience is like an unassisted blind man at a traffic intersection. The "warning lights" can be our salvation.

- A. P. Bailey

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SAVED BY GRACE

Some day the silver cord will break;
And I no more as now shall sing;
But O, the joy when I shall wake
Within the palace of the King!

Some day my earthly house will fall,
I cannot tell how soon 'twill be,
But this I know - my All in All
Has now a place in Heav'n for me.

Some day, when fades the golden sun
Beneath the rosy-tinted west,
My blessed Lord will say, "Well done!"
And I shall enter into rest.

Some day; till then I'll watch and wait,
My lamp all trimmed and burning bright,
That when my Savior opes the gate,
My soul to Him may take its flight.

- Fanny J. Crosby

COURAGE OF THEIR CONVICTIONS

Pragmatism is a way of life for most people. The compromise of their convictions is, to them, a small price to pay for success. They have neither the desire nor the courage to stand by their convictions. God wants a people to serve Him who are willing to follow Him and give their all. The Christian Church has had many martyrs in her ranks who would not compromise. They were not pragmatists. They were willing to suffer rather than give up their convictions based on God's Word.

Fifty years ago, June 24, 1926, a small group of Christians meeting at Plevna, Indiana demonstrated the courage of their convictions. They were convinced, as their forefathers before them had been, that the Bible was the Word of God. Knowing it was God's Word urged them to follow its teachings as close as possible. Because of their convictions, they had been ridiculed, silenced and tried in their various congregations. They had been left behind, when their Church caught the modernistic, pragmatic Spirit. She had become all things to all people - condoning many things she had formerly worked against so earnestly. Now these men would not let go of their convictions or of the Word of God. They took a bold step. They decided that, since the Word of God and the practices of the Church, which made the Word alive in everyday living, were being laid aside, they would continue to practice the Way of their convictions. They recognized at the time that few would be attracted to such a cause. Because of the courage and desire needed to live by Biblical convictions, only a remnant would choose to follow God. The world contained many religious organizations, after

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

this meeting there would be one more. But this one was the only one these Brethren and Sisters felt met the description of the Bible and the yearning of their souls. The Dunkard Brethren Church was launched to provide a place, then and now, for those who would stand by Biblical convictions.

Throughout the history given us in the Bible we have the record of various ones, who, though outnumbered, ridiculed and tried, stood for God against all odds. Caleb and Joshua were only two against the other ten spies and later against the thousands of the children of Israel, but they were proven to be the ones true to God. These two alone of all the adults were permitted to enter the Promised Land. They had the courage to hold to their convictions.

Elijah stood alone against the prophets of Baal. Even the people who professed to be God's People were friendlier to his opponents than to him until they saw the power of God demonstrated in support of His Servant. Because Elijah dared to stand alone for God, the people were made to realize that a majority consists of God plus one man of convictions, not of the many pragmatists who want the best of the world and of God's ways, both. Elijah stood by his convictions and God supported him with Heavenly Power.

Daniel chose to unashamedly pray to God. He was God's servant; he knew he could not reverance any one but God. The punishment was meted out to him; he was thrust into the lion's den, to be a feast for those hungry, ferocious beasts. Because he demonstrated himself to have the courage of his convictions, he was protected by God. He had a witness, even before the King, because he stood by God rather than the schemers and compromisers who tried to end his Godly influence.

Many today, inside as well as outside the professing Church, do not have any Biblical convictions, only a few opinions. There are some, though professing to be believers in and followers of God's Word, who do not have the courage to stand for those convictions. Many today are like the people of Elijah's day, interested in true religion but only when they see God's People live-up to their profession. Christians must have Biblical convictions and they must have the courage to stand up for them. If they do, God will take care of the strength, protection and blessings needed. Pragmatists can never understand why one would risk all for an unseen God and His Word. To them it is better to go along with the popular tide than to suffer ridicule and trial. This attitude has affected many Christians.

We can be glad the Brethren and Sisters, who met in 1926, were not pragmatists but Christians with convictions. Are there still those in 1976 who have the courage of their convictions? Will you stand for God not only on Sunday, not only at General Conference, not only on special occasions but in your everyday living? Do you have the courage of your convictions?

TATTLE-TALE GRAY

There are people of many colors in this world: red, yellow, black, white and brown. Each color denotes a certain race. Each race has special characteristics by which we identify them. There's another color we seldom think about, but many people belong in that group. Did you ever see anyone who is tattle-tale gray? You haven't? Look more closely and I think you will see some.

Tattle-tale gray is not the color of the skin; it's the color of the heart and it's harder to see. Jesus came into this world to provide a way for hearts to be cleansed from sin and to be made pure and white. When a heart is tattle-tale gray, Jesus' cleansing power has not been applied. Tattle-tale gray in laundry means the clothes are still partly dirty, and it's not a pretty color. A dingy heart is not attractive either. Only a pure and clean heart, the kind Jesus can give you, is attractive.

What makes a heart tattle-tale gray? Little sins, big sins, anything in-between, for sin spoils the purity. If someone adds a pinch of dirt to a glass of clear, pure water, it is no longer pure water. If you have a little sin in your heart and you won't let Jesus cleanse you, you are not pure. We can't become pure or stay pure on our own; Jesus is the only way.

What comes from an impure heart? Sin, of course. But let's think about some by name, especially the so-called "little" ones. We call them "little" because they are easier to hide, or they do not affect so many others. Murder is considered a "big" sin, because of its far-reaching effect. A lie or a nasty remark is considered a little thing, but is it really little? When any thought becomes spoken words, it comes from the heart. Evil remarks indicate an impure heart, hardly a little, unimportant matter.

In I Corinthians 13, we are given the characteristics of love. These come from a pure heart. In contrast, a little unkindness, a little pride, or a little selfishness makes a little impurity. A little impurity is sin, and that makes the tattle-tale gray stain on our hearts. This indicates a need for cleansing, just as much as when a heart is black with the greatest of sins. A little good combined with the bad does not purify the heart, even though Satan likes for us to think so.

A little impatience in the morning may spoil your whole day, as well as put a spot on your heart. Being short-tempered doesn't indicate peace or quietness in your heart. Improper behavior, whether you are rude, impatient or foolish, doesn't show Christian attitudes; it embarrasses those around you. "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty." Prov. 16:32a. "The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression." Prov. 19:11. Herein is self-control and forgiveness from the heart. God's promises are to those

who restrain themselves, not to those who let their emotions rule them. "Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee." Prov. 20:22.

Perhaps you have heard someone say, "I don't feel sorry for him. He received just what he deserved." It surely doesn't come from a heart of love, does it? Are you glad at others' calamities or do you rejoice in serving the Lord? "And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord; it shall rejoice in his salvation." Psa. 35:9. "Let not thine heart envy sinners; but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long." Prov. 23:17. Our thoughts are important and if they are not pure, our hearts aren't. That "tattle-tale gray" stain of sin will still show up, because "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matt. 12:34b

Sins are to be repented of; we are not to hang on to them. Christ's blood washes them all away, if we are willing for that to be done. "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." Prov. 28:13a. Trying to cover up the bad in our hearts with a little good won't work. Those with good morals, yet without Christ and His purity, are like the gray laundry. They are still partly dirty. This condition is not acceptable to God. The only purity He will accept is Christ's purity applied to our hearts. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Matt. 5:8.

To be pure in heart leaves no room for impurity, whether it be a "little" sin or a "big" sin. There is no room for a little hate, a little dishonesty, or a little backbiting. You may try to be good and to live a better life, but without Christ the dinginess of sin remains. "But we are all an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Isaiah 64:6a.

Jesus shed His blood so we wouldn't need to stay black with sin, or tattle-tale gray, or anything less than pure white. There is no other way to become pure. This means going all the way in letting Jesus cleanse us. We can't go halfway with the Lord and call it good enough. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." I John 1:9. Will you let Jesus cleanse you now and give you a pure heart?

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

It is well to let a little sunshine out as well as in.

The most valuable gift you can give another is a good example.

CHARITY

Part 2
I Corinthians 13:2-4

Verse 2 - The gift (however great), without the grace of love, is void of meaning. Prophecy, understanding and knowledge rank very high but are of little value without the presence of love. Some men in their own eyes and sight are great men of faith, yet before God they are nothing, simply because they lack love.

How differently the man of learning uses his powers when the soul is filled with the spirit of brotherly love. It is this Christian grace that inspires great men to consecrate their talents and minds to the Great Master. One of the greatest of all things is the mind. It is no wonder then, that God in his Word commands, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5.

Faith precedes love. The heart of a man must find Christ and have life from Him before it can love Him. A strong faith is a great quality to kindle a warm love. A lack of love shows a weak faith, indeed. A faith great enough to remove an obstacle of immense proportions becomes nothing without charity. Love is the single eye of the soul, and it fills the whole body with the light of life. "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:4.

Verse 3 - A person may go far in the realm of sacrifical giving of alms, yet fall far short of the highest motive. Give thought to Ananias and Sapphira and their unworthy motive. They wished their name to be seen by the early church. If our giving is from a heart of love for Jesus, both the giver and the gift are sanctified.

He, who loves and gives, resembles God whose heart is filled with love and whose hands are ever filled with gifts. The absence of love even takes away from the virtue of martyrdom or the giving of our natural life.

I would like to relate a story of an early Christian of Antioch. On his way to be burned at the stake he refused to forgive and be reconciled to a Christian Brother. Such a case is an example of zeal without love, which the apostle here pronounces worthless. If Christian charity is absent, where zeal is present, there seems reason to fear the motives. If there is no love for Christ's people, there is no real love for Christ.

Polycarp, though eighty-six years old, was called upon to offer his body to be burned at the stake in Rome. He suffered this martyrdom with a willing mind. Too many times SELF is the pivot upon which our whole and entire conduct revolves. "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for their's is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 5:10.

Verse 4 - Charity for our fellow man suffers long compared to impatience. It is simply impossible to mix in human society without encountering many occasions of irritation. In the world, in the home, and in the church, impatience and irritability are among the most common infirmities. There is no more sure sign of a disciplined and morally cultured mind than the habit of forbearance, tolerance, and patience.

True Christianity supplies a motive and power for long-suffering, which can act in the lives of people of every temperament and every position of life. Love is gracious and kind as opposed to malicious and ill-willed. There is no greater proof of the awfulness of sin than what malice exhibits.

Envy and jealousy are vices which come from discontent with one's own condition when compared to others. Here we have just about the meanest sin that man is capable of engaging in.

- To be continued

Brother Harley Flory
Rt. 4, Defiance, Ohio 43512

CHILDREN'S PAGE

MIRIAM BECOMES A LEPER

Numbers 12:1-16

Moses married an Ethiopian woman. I suppose she was a Negro. Miriam, Moses' sister, and Aaron, Moses' brother, spoke against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman. They got so worked-up about it that they were ready to denounce Moses. They said, "Hath He not spoken also by us?" What they were really saying was, "We're just as good as Moses. Why can't we tell the people what to do instead of Moses?" They thought that if Moses had an Ethiopian wife, he wasn't worthy to be their leader.

Moses was a meek man. The Bible says that he was the meekest man in all the earth. It doesn't sound like Moses protested against Miriam and Aaron, but the Lord heard what they said and was very displeased. The Lord came down from the pillar of cloud and stood in the door of the tabernacle. He called Aaron and Miriam, so they both came forth. God said, "If there be a prophet among you, I, the Lord will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant, Moses, is a faithful man to me in everything I say. With him will I speak mouth to mouth. Why aren't you afraid to speak

against a man who has been so faithful to me?" And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them and He departed.

After the cloud was raised from the tabernacle, they looked at Miriam; she had become a leper, white as snow. Aaron begged Moses to forgive them, for they had done foolishly. So Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, "Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee." God loved Moses but told him that Miriam should be shut out of the camp for seven days and then she could be received in the camp again, which meant she would be healed. It seems rather strange that the Lord didn't punish Aaron too. It must have been Miriam who was jealous of the Ethiopian woman and started talking against Moses. This we do not know, but we do know that God is just and His ways are altogether righteous.

Can we get a lesson from this? I think we can. We should be very careful how we speak about others. We just might be talking about someone that God thinks an awful lot of. Jesus says, "Judge not, that ye be not judged."

- Brother Rudy Cover

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

PERGAMOS: A church compromising with the world system.

The city of Pergamos was a blend of political power, pagan worship, and academic sophistication at its university. It was the capital city of Asia Minor and royal officials filled it with beautiful palaces, temples, and idols. The altar of Zeus, there, was a wonder of the ancient world. The patron god of the city was Aesculapius, the god of healing. In his temple, a living serpent was the symbol of worship. All the pagan rites of antiquity were practiced here.

One of the great universities of that era was located at Pergamos. It housed a library containing over 200,000 books, second in size only to Alexandria's. Greek philosophy pervaded the city. The temple to Octavius Ceasar, where Ceasar worship flourished, was located here. Each citizen was required to offer incense to the emperor once a year and declare that Caesar was lord.

In the discussion of this church (Rev. 2:12-17), Jesus describes Himself as having a sharp sword with two edges. Other scriptures referring to this two-edged-sword refers to the Word of God in its discernment of man's thoughts and motives.

The Lord Jesus assured these believers that He knows they are dwelling where Satan's throne is...that is, in the heart of a city under

Satan's control. He therefore understands the persecutions and temptations they are experiencing from that rampant, satanic religion. Jesus praises these Saints for continuing to boldly proclaim Him as the only Lord in the face of great danger and opposition. He also commends them for sticking loyally to the truth rather than watering it down or perverting it with the aberrations of the pagan religions.

No doubt many Christians in the Church at Pergamos died for their faith, but Jesus singled out one man especially and calls him "My faithful martyr." Church history tells us that this first martyr, Antipas, was brought before a statue of Caesar and told to swear that Balaam was God. But Antipas boldly proclaimed that Jesus alone was the Lord and that there was no other God but He. The Roman official exclaimed, "Antipas, don't you know that the whole world is against you?" He replied, "Then Antipas is against the whole world." Antipas was put inside a brass bull which was heated with fire until he was roasted to death.

The Lord deals with our sins according to our maturity and the circumstances of our failure. The Church was tolerating serious evil in the teachings and practices of Balaam and the Nicolaitans, yet the Lord's rebuke shows understanding of the pressures Satan can bring. The teachings of Balaam drew God's people away by using voluptuous women as enticement to sexual sins. The teachings of the Nicolaitans might have originated with Nicholas, one of the seven original deacons. Nicholas drifted into Greek philosophy and began to accept its tenet that the spiritual part of man is inherently good and the material part is equally sought to merge Christianity with paganism ... to go to temples as well as to church. This was total compromise with the world. Look about you today, dear ones! Do we see this compromise in today's modern churches?

Jesus hated these teachings because they lured believers away from fellowship with Him and compelled Him to discipline them. Jesus warned the church to get rid of all who would teach and practice such error unless they would repent.

The people of that day were enamored with the mysteries of the pagan religious rites, even as people are today. Jesus promised even greater mysteries for His followers to enjoy forever ... hidden manna and a stone with a new name which only the receiver knows. During John's time, some courts of law gave a white stone to a defendant when he was acquitted and a black stone when he was found guilty. Being given a white stone with a new name on it might suggest the believer's complete acceptance and favor with God.

The Pergamos Church symbolized the historical era when the Church merged with the state. Emperor Constantine made Christianity the official religion of the empire and the massive persecutions ceased. But this apparent blessing to the Church become a curse. The Church

compromised its position more and more in order to gain favor and power. A church hierarchy began to develop with the Bishop of Rome claiming increasing prominence because of his proximity to the ruler of the Empire. He sought to strengthen his claim with the declaration of apostolic succession ... alleging that this office in Rome was linked directly to Peter and that the "big fisherman" was the foundation of the Church.

The Pergamos Church thus compromised with the world's paganism and immorality and can be compared to the church from A.D. 312 to 590 as well as with today.

Let us strive for purity and hold stedfast to our total, consecrated faith in Jesus Christ, not allowing ourselves to compromise with the world system and its ideologies.

- Brother Leonard Wertz

YOU CAN'T RUN FAR ENOUGH

Are you troubled? Do you have a problem? Does it worry you? What are you doing about it?

You can't run away. Look where it got Jonah. He wound up in the belly of a great fish. Jonah 2:1, "Then Jonah prayed unto the Lord his God, out of the fish's belly." Why did he wait so long?

Moses fled to Midian, on the back side of the desert, after he had killed the Egyptian, because he feared Pharaoh. He didn't run far enough that God couldn't find him, when He was ready for Moses to lead the Children of Israel out of Egypt. Exodus 3:2-4, "And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: ... and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I."

Elijah, too, ran when he feared for his life after slaying the prophets of Baal. He had done great and mighty things. He knew God was with him when He sent fire from Heaven and consumed the sacrifice and the altar. He was with him when he prayed for rain, and it rained, yet he fled and lodged in a cave in Mount Horeb, but God found him there. I Kings 19:9, "And he came thither unto a cave and lodged there; and behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and He said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?"

How many times does He find us in the "Slough of Despond" and asks, "What doest thou here?"

Jesus says, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." John 15:7. So, after all else fails, try prayer. Is that what Jesus meant? Of course not! Then why do we wait and try everything else first, and then say, "There's nothing left to do but pray?" But you say, "I have prayed and prayed and prayed and nothing is changed." Why? Are you at fault? Maybe yes, maybe no! Only you know if you are abiding in Jesus, trusting Him as you should and if His Words are abiding in you. If we search our hearts and truly feel we are doing our best, what then?

Let's see what happened when Our Example, Jesus Christ, prayed. John 17:1, "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to Heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee." And again, in verses 4 and 5, "I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." Did God answer this prayer? Yes! But not before Gethsemene, the false trial, the cruel mockings and the scourgings. He had to carry His cross up Golgotha's hill, but He fell beneath the load; Simon, a man of Cyrene, was compelled to bear His cross. Is your cross another's trouble? Perhaps you feel you have done all you can, but keep praying. Gal. 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Jesus' prayer was not answered, when He prayed it, nor was His prayer in Gethsemene answered then. Matt. 26:39, "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt." Verse 42, "He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." Verse 44, "And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words."

He must bear His cross. Perhaps we weary of our cross, too, but it is not as heavy as Jesus' cross. Afterwards His prayer was answered. God did glorify Him even as He had prayed for.

You can't run far enough to get away from your trouble. So what can you do? Exodus 14:13a, "And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you today." Ephesians 6:13, "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." What is the whole armour of God? Verses 14-18, "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breast plate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye

shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

When you know you have done all you can, and your problem is still with you, if you can't run far enough; you can STAND STILL, and see the salvation of the Lord.

- Sister Edyth Kline
11313 ElPomar Ave., Waterford, Calif. 95386

SOUTH FULTON

A Sermon by Bro. George Replogle

When I read that God says, "from everlasting to everlasting," I believe it. When He sent His only Son that we may have life, I believe He means what He says.

People get overcome with temporal things. They have good and wonderful things but they are not satisfied; they must have better and greater things, as though they were preparing to stay forever on the earth.

I don't want to stay on the earth. I know that the world-to-come is filled with riches of Glory. When we stop to think, Heaven far surpasses anything here on earth. This is just a proving ground, only for a while, to prove to God, we want to live in His perfect world. God is from everlasting to everlasting. If we really believe and really want to live in Heaven, we are going to do something about it. He wants the whole of our mind, our heart, and our strength.

What for?

That we might be a child of God, ". . .If a man love me, he will keep my words,. . ." and prove to the world we love Him more than all the world. We can't be perfect like Christ, but if we are born of God we are a new creature, old things pass away and all things become new. No one is rejected or ineligible, when we allow God to enter our heart.

Text: "Purchased Possession" Eph. 1:5-14. We are not the real olive tree.

The human family adopts children. God adopts us to make us eligible to receive a crown of righteousness. He gives us conditions to meet: to refrain from worldly influences and to have a newness of mind.

The world professes to be on the road to Heaven but they don't want to meet God's conditions. If we are adopted we must accept His will; if

we aren't willing, something is wrong.

When God wants to adopt us, He expects us to be as submissive as we are to our human family, beloved and willing to do what parents direct us to do. Christ gave us our example; how to do and live.

God is able to reach down and raise us up and save us through the blood of His Son. His Grace is great enough to make us new creatures, when we put into practice our belief. If we fully surrender to Him we will be in the number of the Redeemed.

God wants us to understand it is the counsel of His Will and not of someone else. The devil wanted to bring glory to himself, to be above God or to overcome God. God had to deal severely with him and sealed his doom. The devil and his angels will be cast into the bottomless pit. When we think of all these wonderful things, I am glad the devil is put out of this, so he has nothing to do with God's counsel.

As long as we are in this world, with the weaknesses of flesh, God has made provision that Christ will intercede for us and take away the desire for sinning. We are purchased and sealed by the Holy Spirit. The devil has no chance to come in, if we are willing to seek forgiveness. We have an advocate with the Father.

David was a man after God's own heart but he did a displeasing thing. God made known to David his sin. David lost no time getting back to God when the Spirit revealed to him his wrong.

When the Spirit reveals to us our wrongs, the thing for us to do is to get back as quickly as possible for forgiveness. If we don't it will look as though we don't really care if we get forgiveness or not.

God says He will never leave us nor forsake us. The Comforter, the Holy Ghost, will lead and direct us as close to God as we allow Him. There is nothing to hinder our salvation if we believe His sealing with that Holy Spirit of Promise.

What is our inheritance? What has God promised if we are sealed? An incorruptible inheritance that fadeth not away. What do we think of it? Do we consider this inheritance real and serious enough to tell the devil and his temptations to get behind us?

When we want something of earthly value, we put forth all possible effort to get it. That is also a wonderful way to prove to God, we want that incorruptible inheritance. Sometimes I wonder if we are worthy of such a wonderful gift. After we leave this life and receive this inheritance no matter how many years of time we spend there, there is no end.

Jesus said, ". . .Be of good cheer I have overcome the world." How wonderful this is. Those who have rejected His Name are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, but will be cast into the fire, where the worm dieth not. We see multiplied numbers of people going on the broad way to destruction rather than travel the narrow way to safety. Think of all the riches a contrite heart will receive with its comforts and rewards.

Each individual has a soul. God wants every soul saved, but if we do not love Him more than we do the devil and his temptations, we will be put with the devil.

Are we devoted and consecrated to His service? Do we open our heart, our mind, our life, so He can lead us? When life is over and we must give an account of what we did, will we be accepted as a good and faithful servant?

People are easily deceived and accept ANY doctrine without thought. The Scriptures tell us, "Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of Heaven; But he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not . . . done many wonderful works" and cast out devils? When the rewards are given some will receive what they don't expect; the words, "depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

If God did not keep His word, what would be the use for us to follow Him? His mercy and loving kindness will bring everyone to judgment. On earth He brings rain on the just and on the unjust. But at the judgment, His wrath falls on those who don't believe. He does not love those on earth who do not serve Him, as much as He does the believer.

- Sister Elta K. Blythe
822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois 61455

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Englewood Congregation plans to hold a revival meeting July 18 through August 1. Brother Fred Pifer, Dallas Center, Iowa, will be the evangelist.

Pray for these services that souls might be saved in these last and later days.

Come and enjoy these services with us.

- Sister Della Klepinger, Cor.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, the Broadwater Chapel Congregation plans to hold revival meetings July 24 to August 1. Elder Paul Reed, of Riner, Virginia will be the evangelist.

On Saturday, July 31, there will be services in the P.M. at 2:30 with Love Feast in the evening.

We invite all who can to come and worship with us.

- Sister Bertha Dorsey, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY

July 4 - Victory for the Jews. Esther 9:12-32.

July 11 - "Hast Thou Considered My Servant Job?" Job 1:1-22

July 18 - Patience in Temptation. Job 2:1-13.

July 25 - Job's Complaint. Job 3:1-26.

QUESTIONS:

(1) Why was Esther, a young Jewish maiden, made Queen of Persia?

(2) What position was given Mordecai? Esther 10:3.

(3) What did Job do when he heard all his possessions and children were lost? Job 1:21.

(4) What did Job's wife try to persuade Job to do? Job 2:9.

(5) Job did not curse God. What did he curse? Job 3:1.

(6) Had Job ever feared that trouble would come upon him? Job 3:25.

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KEEP

Keep the Sayings of Christ. John 8:51-52
Keep the Commandments of Christ. John 14:15.
Keep the Unity of the Spirit. Eph. 4:3.
Keep Unspotted from the World. James 1:27.
Keep in the Love of God. Jude 21.
Keep the Faith. II Timothy 5:22.
Keep Pure. I Timothy 5:22.
Keep Yourselves from Idols. I John 5:21.
Keep the Body Under. I Cor. 9:27.
Keep the Heart Diligently. Prov. 4:23.
Keep from the Paths of the Destroyer. Psalms 17:4.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JULY 1976

COME

Memory Verse I Timothy 2:4
Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Thur. 1 - I Thessalonians 3:1-13
Fri. 2 - I Thessalonians 4:1-18
Sat. 3 - I Thessalonians 5:1-28

Memory Verse I Timothy 6:19
Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Sun. 4 - II Thess. 1:1-12
Mon. 5 - II Thess. 2:1-17
Tues. 6 - I Timothy 2:1-15
Wed. 7 - I Timothy 3:1-16
Thur. 8 - I Timothy 4:1-16
Fri. 9 - I Timothy 6:1-21
Sat.10 - II Timothy 3:1-17

Memory Verse Hebrews 4:16
Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Sun.11 - 2 Timothy 4:1-22
Mon.12 - Hebrews 2:1-18
Tues.13 - Hebrews 4:1-16
Wed.14 - Hebrews 4:1-20
Thur.15 - Hebrews 7:1-28
Fri.16 - Hebrews 8:1-13
Sat.17 - Hebrews 9:1-28

Memory Verse Hebrews 7:25
Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Sun.18 - Hebrews 10:1-22
Mon.19 - Hebrews 10:23-39
Tues.20 - Hebrews 11:1-19
Wed.21 - Hebrews 11:20-40
Thur.22 - Hebrews 12:1-29
Fri.23 - Hebrews 13:1-25
Sat.24 - James 1:1-27

Memory Verse Hebrews 12:22
But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels.

Sun.25 - James 2 :1-26
Mon.26 - James 4:1-17
Tues.27 - James 5:1-20
Wed.28 - I Peter 1:1-25
Thur.29 - I Peter 2:1-25
Fri.30 - I Peter 4:1-19
Sat.31 - 2 Peter 1:1-21

Memory Verse Hebrews 13:14
For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.

I Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

SWEETLY RESTING

In the rifted Rock I'm resting;
Safely sheltered I abide;
There no foes or storms molest me,
While within the cleft I hide.

Long pursued by sin and Satan,
Weary, sad, I longed for rest;
Then I found this heav'nly shelter,
Opened in my Savior's breast.

Peace, which passeth understanding,
Joy the world can never give,
Now in Jesus I am finding;
In His smiles of love I live.

In the rifted Rock I'll hide me
Till the storms of life are past,
All secure in this blest refuge,
Heeding not the fiercest blast.

- Mrs. Mary D. James

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

Part 1

In this Bicentennial year, especially around the Fourth of July, we hear a lot about liberty. This nation has been pleased with liberty for nearly two hundred years. This year has witnessed many historical and patriotic projects but there has been very little attention given to God's blessings upon our nation or our Christian Heritage. It is a shame that the God of our Forefathers will receive so little notice or thanks for the many blessings He has showered upon this land. We are privileged to live in this country where we have so many freedoms, especially the freedom of worship.

Jesus, during His earthly ministry, spoke of liberty, though not the liberty we celebrate this Bicentennial year. In speaking to the Jews He spoke of setting them free, although they could not understand what He was talking about. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. ". . .Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever; but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:34b-36. The Jews could never understand Jesus and this was no exception. They could not understand how they could be made free for their hearts were dull. But are His Words listened to and understood anymore today?

The Jews were in bondage to the Roman government at this time. They wished for national freedom above all things. But Jesus was not

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

speaking of political freedom, neither then nor now. His interest is in the souls of individuals. Political freedom is not a prerequisite of Christianity. We have been wonderfully blessed to have lived in a democratic nation, but neither democracy nor capitalism is sacred. Christianity has existed under many forms of government and has flourished when persecuted by dictators ever since the Roman Empire. The Jews could only envision their Messiah coming to crush the Romans and to establish a glorious Kingdom. They expected to be highly exalted in such a kingdom. Their Messiah came but He spoke of a different kingdom and of humiltiy instead of exaltation.

Many equate liberty with license. Their concept of liberty is to do whatever they desire. They wish the freedom of the wild animals, which they have been taught that they have evolved from. In their songs, movies and television shows they are told that they are "born free" like the animals of the jungle. But they forget that God made man with a mind and a soul. Man has been given responsibility for his actions. He has a mind to think and plan and to realize the consequences of his actions. He has a soul to fit for the Heavenly Father's pleasure. God put man here for his own pleasure but surely man has failed to live up to God's purpose.

The freedom offered by the world and Satan through sin and pleasure will soon be found to be a false freedom. For sin brings greater bondage. The sinful habits men form in youth become prisons for them later, physically and Spiritually. Jesus spoke of a personal liberty from the bondage of sin.

A servant was not established permanently. He could be sold to another. He could be abused. Even servants banding together could not free themselves; it could only prove to be so much talk. As slaves, they were the property of their owner and his family; however, if the owner's son, his heir, wished to free a slave, he could. He could issue manumission papers that would set the slave free.

The Son of God, our joint-heir, has that power over the power of sin. He can free us who were servants to sin. Although God created us for His pleasure, we give Him very little pleasure for we choose to walk contrary to His way. It is not only our physical sins but the rebellion of our hearts and wills that make us the servants of sin rather than of God. Since the rebellion of our will and our way is the very thing that separates us from God, it is plain to see that we need a different will and way to please Him. The only way that will be effective is through the Son who has the power to set us free. "Jesus saith unto him (you), I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." John 14:6.

During this Bicentennial celebration we will hear much about liberty but very little about this freedom offered by Jesus. Which "liberty" will

you choose? The deceptive liberty of the world which makes you a slave and a loser or the liberty offered through Christ which will make you free indeed?.

ALL ABOUT BIRDS

The Bible speaks of many different kinds of birds, from the little sparrows to the giant eagles. Jesus used fowls to illustrate our importance to God. "Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" Matt. 6:26. As you read this story about birds, see if there is a lesson for you.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint." Isa. 40:31. The eagle possesses great strength and lives above the places which other birds inhabit. When in danger, the eagle will fly toward the sun, making it impossible to see him. A Christian can live above the problems of life, in the Lord's strength. When we need help, we should go directly to the Son of God, for He is our refuge and strength.

A mourning dove was nesting in a small tree beside the Pleasant Ridge Church. All attempts to distract her or scare her failed. Because she had a goal in mind and a duty to perform, she stayed on the nest. The Christian's goal is an eternity with Christ, after a faithful, fruitful life of service to Him. It requires our full-time attention. Can you stick to your goal as faithfully as the dove or do you get distracted and lose interest in serving God?

When Peter heard the cock crow after he denied knowing Christ, it was a sharp reminder that he had not followed Christ all the way. Peter thought he would never forsake Christ, but Jesus said, ". . .before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice." Mark 14:30b. Peter wept bitterly because he knew he had failed, in spite of all his good intentions. This was a painful lesson, but it brought Peter closer to the Lord. Have you ever denied our Lord, then had some small reminder of your unfaithfulness? It might not be the crowing of a rooster, but it might be a still, small voice whispering to you to remind you of a broken promise.

Two brilliant-blue macaws, large parrot-like birds, chirped to themselves as they ate. They seemed to be telling each other how good it was, and how good their home in the zoo was. They had peace and contentment, even though they were confined against their will. Prisoners and slaves are bound, yet their hearts and souls can be made free in Christ. Others are bound by circumstances beyond their control. If you are confined in a situation against your will, can you be content and at peace through Christ?

On our lawn, a little bird, the size of a sparrow, dug through about three inches of snow to find the seeds we had put out before the snow came. He knew the food was there, even though it was covered, because he had been there before. He showed courage, for it was cold and unpleasant. He had ambition, for he wasn't afraid of the extra work. He had faith, because he kept on digging even though not one seed was visible. No other bird helped, but that didn't discourage him. When the going gets a little rough, do you put forth some extra effort, so the blessing will be yours? God will help you, if you continue on in faith.

The children of Israel complained because they wanted flesh to eat, not just the manna God had provided. (See Num. 11). In His anger, God promised them flesh to eat for a month, until it came out their noses, and was loathsome to them. He caused quails to fall three feet deep about thirty miles each way from the camp. All day, all night, plus all the next day, the people gathered quails, the least collected being ten homers. This was about eighty bushels; some had more! As they began to eat, God smote them and many died. This was the price they paid for their greed and unthankfulness. What would happen if God gave to us according to our selfishness?

Elijah was fed by the ravens during a drought. (See I Kings 17:1-6). Ravens are large scavengers which eat carrion. They were an unclean bird, yet it must have been very comforting to Elijah to see the birds coming on schedule. The birds obeyed God by meeting Elijah's needs. Do you do as well when helping someone? Or, do you sometimes give just your leftovers? Elijah would not have appreciated the raven's leftovers! When you have a need, do you accept what God provides or do you keep looking for something better? God supplied Elijah's needs; He will supply yours, if you want Him to.

A minister in the persecuted Church behind the Iron Curtain was desperately in need of food for his family. After ministering to the believers one day, his heart was nearly in despair as he trudged along the dusty road toward home. A little bird played around in the road; at one spot, she dusted herself, then flew away. When he came to that spot, he rejoiced to see that she had uncovered some coins, enough for his needs for a month or more. This was the answer to his prayer, so he thanked God.

Do any of these lessons speak to your heart? Birds faithfully perform as God wants them to. Do you?

- Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

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Character is not born in a crisis it is only revealed.

A NEW LIFE

Beginning a new life, of living for the Lord, is like starting on a journey around the world. We don't know just where all we will be, or just what all we will see, or just how long it will take. We only know what is expected of us as we go along our way.

Isn't it wonderful that we, a sinful people, can have a new life in the Lord? Just what does a new life mean to us as Christians? Do we fully understand what a new life can and should mean to us? Do we stop to think that a new life is a greater and fuller existence here on this earth.

If our life is just a dreary day-by-day existence, we do not have the new life in us. A new life should mean our lives and our hearts are filled with a great exuberance of love for everyone and everything, here on this earth. Our love should be so full and over running that it would touch every one we come in contact with.

With a new life we are willing to give our all for our Savior, who gave His all for us. We are not to look back on our old life of sin, after we start our new life for the Lord. We know the new life means we can cast our every burden upon the Lord through prayer and the load will be lifted or made lighter.

Do we, as born-again Christians, ever stop and look back, to the time we started our new life of living for the Lord, to see how much our life has changed? Has it changed? If it hasn't are we living a new life?

As the Good Lord lets us go from day to day, shouldn't we live each day as though we were just starting a new life? Has our exuberance faded with the passing of time? Has our life grown dull? Do we think of our Lord as being "old hat" for us, now that we have been with Him so long? When and if, we get to this place that we feel this way, we should think back to when we asked Jesus to give us a new life and remember the feeling we had pass through our hearts. I am sure that we can recapture that feeling, pick up on the old theme, start a new life all over, regain our exuberance, and go to work for the Lord.

It makes me so happy to know that, if we fulfill our part of the new life here on earth, our Savior will give us a better new life in Heaven with Him. As the Savior says in John 10:28, "And I give unto them eternal life . . ." This is a new life that really sounds wonderful. We, of the new life, should, through the love within us, try to change the lives of those in an unsaved condition so they might enjoy this new life. I cannot imagine anyone wanting to miss this happiness of being with our Savior, throughout eternity.

Are we living our new life as one, joined with the body of Christ, or do we try to live it unto ourselves. If we try this, we are falling short of our calling. We have to live it both ways using the doctrine of the Gospel to show us the way.

Do we testify of the Lord and of our new life that He has given us or do we walk as other Gentiles? Do we walk in the vanity of our minds?

If we walk in this new life as a well-working part of the body of Christ, we will be showing the love that we have for the Lord and the love that He has for us. Isn't it wonderful to know that we have the love of the Lord with us, as we go about living our new life? This should enable us to help someone else to find their way to the Lord, that they might walk in this new life, glorifying the precious Savior.

When we live a new life so it will minister grace unto those whom we come in contact with, there will be a blessing in it for us. I pray the Good Lord will let all of His children live this new life with the comfort of the Holy Spirit and with forgiving hearts toward one another, even as God has forgiven us.

In Christian Fellowship
Brother Orvis Smith

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

THYATIRA: The good works church harboring a false prophetess.

Thyatira was probably the least important of the cities, where the seven Churches in the Revelation, were located. Its main industry was dying cloth, a rich, red and purple color. For this it was famous throughout the Empire. The first believer in Christ in Europe, whom we are aware of, was a seller of purple cloth named Lydia; she was from the city of Thyatira. There were many trade guilds in the city; it was almost impossible to do well in business without belonging to one of these guilds. That became a problem as paganism and immorality were prevelant in guild life. Ironic, is it not, that we can again compare this to situations, which we are all well aware of, in our day?

Jesus describes Himself as having eyes like a flame of fire. This might depict His piercing appraisal of their hearts, a search which exposed impure motivations in their worship of Him. Jesus' feet of bronze can symbolize the judgement that was going to fall on this Church if it did not get back to doing His will.

The Lord praised the Thyatirans for their love, faith, service, patience, and works. In fact, He mentions works twice because, as a growing Church, their service for Christ in recent years had been greater than it was at the beginning. In some ways, members of the Church were most commendable. They had love and faith, which Paul affirmed as the real goals that the commandments of God should produce in believers, in I Timothy 1:5.

Church leaders and certain other believers had allowed an occultic prophetess to ensnare some of the immature believers there. This woman was probably the chief oracle of the large shrine for the occultic mediums and fortune telling in the city of Thyatira, when this letter was being written. Her actual name was Sambathe, but here she is given a very descriptive name, Jezebel. We know well the story of Jezebel leading the Old Testament Israelites into idolatrous, religious rites and debased sexuality. This heathen prophetess induced the people at Thyatira to mix idolatry and sexual impurity with their Christianity. I believe that today some leaders of Churches and so-called-Christian Colleges, who should know better, are trying to do the same thing. They invite noted fortune tellers to speak in Churches and classrooms to satisfy their curiosity. Might these occultic mediums be "Trojan Horses" in the midst of God's camp?

The most severe and unusual warning given to any of the Churches is given to Thyatira. Interestingly, instead of destroying or removing the prophetess, Christ casts her into a bed so that those who lack genuine love for God will confirm their infidelity by consorting with this spiritual harlot. Those who commit adultry with her will be brought into great tribulation unless they repent and evidence true faith in the Lord. He also warns that her offspring will be killed; those who mix occultism in any way with the teachings of the Bible and Christianity will perish.

The Lord proclaims that all the Churches will realize, through His treatment of the harlot and her followers, that He examines the motives behind religious practices. It appears that many "religious" people do not desire a personal relationship with the true God. That would place too many demands on their selfish plans. They merely want religion to boost their ego, when needed, as they perform their "good deeds."

Jesus now turns to the sincere seekers, in the midst of this idolatry and immorality, giving some marvelous promises. First, He assures them that no other burdens will be added unto them. What He had told them to do or to not do was all He intended to put upon them, since they were already laboring under heavy responsibilities. He reminded them to hold zealously to their faith until He returned. The believing remnant of this Church is also promised that it will be a co-ruler with Christ over the Kingdom that will be established for a thousand years on earth.

Thyatira might well fit the characteristics of the era that spanned the middle ages. During that period, the dominant Church formed a system, like Jezebel, that bound the people to image worship, superstition, and the like. Today, too, we see signs of this happening. We remember again the promise that the believing remnant, from this prostituted form of Christianity, is promised it will be present at the rapture and will be delivered from the clutches of this iniquity by Christ. Praise His Holy Name for this wonderful promise.

- Brother Leonard Wertz

CHILDREN'S PAGE

GIANTS IN THE LAND

Numbers 13:1-33

The children of Israel were camped close to the Canaan land that God promised them. God told Moses that He would deliver them from the hands of the Egyptians and bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey. God had Moses send one man from each of the twelve tribes to search the land and find out what kind of people lived there; whether they were many or few or weak or strong. They needed to know what the land was like, what kind of cities were there, how good the soil was and what kind of crops were grown.

Joshua and Caleb, two faithful men of God, were among the twelve men selected. The Israelites needed to know how they were to overcome this land that God had promised them. The land was truly a wonderful country with fruit and food in abundance. At one place, they cut off a branch with a bunch of grapes that took two men to carry between them on a pole. Have you ever seen a bunch of grapes like that? That would be something, wouldn't it? The men also brought back figs and pomegranates. It truly was a good land - just like God had said. After forty days the spies returned.

Moses, Aaron and all the people were anxiously waiting to hear about this land that was to be their future home. They gazed in wonder at the size of that bunch of grapes and the other fruit that the spies showed them. Then the men told them what they had seen, "The land surely floweth with milk and honey and this is the fruit of it. Nevertheless, the people are strong that dwell in the land and the cities have great walls. And we saw giants in the land. We were as grasshoppers in their sight."

This caused the people to start talking and I can imagine what a lot of confusion there was. They were ready to enter this wonderful land, but they thought it would be impossible for them to take it. Then Caleb quieted the people and said, "Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it." Here was a man who trusted God and who knew God could overcome any obstacle - even giants.

But the men that went up with Caleb said, "We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we." It is hard to believe that they, who saw the power of God in the plagues sent on Pharaoh, the crossing of the Red Sea and the miracles of food and water in a dry and thirsty desert, could disregard God and trust only in their own strength.

How about us today? When things look bad, do we look to God for help or do we, like the spies, think that we just can't do it. All things are

possible with God. When we trust Him He will give us strength to meet any trial.

- Brother Rudy Cover

PLAIN PEOPLE KEEP PLAIN

By Mrs. E. H. Hostettler

Charles Finney's Confession:

"I will confess that I was formerly in error. I believed, and I taught, that the way for Christians to pursue, was to dress so as not to be noticed, to follow the fashions and changes so as not to appear singular, and that nobody would be led to think of being different from others in these particulars. But I have seen my error, and now wonder greatly at my former blindness. It is your duty to dress so plain as to show the world that you place no sort of reliance in the things of fashion, and set no value at all on them, but despise and neglect them altogether. But unless you are singular, unless you separate yourselves from the fashions of the world, you show that you do value them. There is no way in which you can bear better testimony by your lives against the fashions of the world, but by dressing plain."

PLAIN CHURCH STANDARD

The New Testament gives definite teachings on how a Christian should be attired. I Peter 3:3-5, I Timothy 2:9, 10. To keep from drifting into worldliness, a distinctive garb has been adopted. Suits of plain material with the erect collar for the Brethren. Dresses of plain material which modestly cover the body and include long sleeves, the cape and the bonnet for the sisters. The wearing of gold, silver or other forms of ornaments and apparel for adornment, (such as the necktie, collar clasp, and brooches) or artificial effort to beautify the face and hair, are not consistent with the principles of separation, as taught in the Word of God. All members should abide by this standard of dress and this should be seen to. By not fully following this standard you lay a stumbling block and tempt the Church to follow the fashions. Then in a few years you will have to say as John Wesley, "I am distressed. I know not what to do. I see what I might have done once, I might have said peremptorily and expressly, here I am; I and my Bible. I will not, I dare not vary from this book, either in great or small. I have no power to dispense with one jot or tittle of what is contained therein. I am most determined to be a Bible Christian, not almost but altogether. Who will meet me on this ground? Join with me on this, or not at all. With regard to dress in

particular, I might have been firm (and I now see it would have been far better) as either the people called Quakers or Moravian Brethren; I might have said, "This is our manner of dress, which we know is both scriptural and rational. If you join us, you are to dress as we do; but you need not join us unless you please.' But, alas! the time is now past; and what I am to do now I cannot tell."

Selected by Brother Lynn H. Miller

THE ASSURANCE OF PERSONAL FAITH

The difficult times in which we live call for a faith in Christ, which is not a mere belief of historical facts about the life and ministry of Jesus, but a personal knowledge of His love, forgiveness, and spiritual presence in our lives. Historical faith derived from the Gospel record provides a solid foundation for the Christian's life (John 2:30-31, Rom. 10:17); but it takes a daily, trusting faith in Jesus in order to overcome the trials and temptations of the world and be able to live a victorious Christian life.

The Apostle Paul provides an example of such faith, "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me. . ." Gal. 2:20. His prayer for the Christians at Ephesus was: "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." Eph. 3:17-19. The phrase, "which passeth knowledge" suggests a faith which grasps a sense of Christ's continual presence and power in our lives. Did not Jesus promise, ". . .And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world?"

Christ has promised to be with us, to see us through our every trial, to aid us in time of temptation, and to plead our case before the Father. He sits at God's right hand as our compassionate High Priest to intercede for us before the Father. Because of that position we can pray through Him, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Heb. 4:12-16, I Cor. 10:13.

What a blessed privilege we have as Christians! We can live and work together as the Lord's people. Through daily study and prayer we can "walk and talk with our God and our Saviour as we go along life's way. We are assured that He knows our daily needs, sees our every strength and weakness, and wants to help us bear our burdens. As a Good Shepherd, He leads us to fountains of living water where our thirst

is quenched and wells of eternal life spring up within us. So long as we follow Him and listen to His voice, no man nor power in all the world is able to pluck us from the Father's hand.

With Paul, we can express the assurance of personal faith. ". . .I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

Selected by Brother W. E. Bashor

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LAND AND THE BOOK

By D. L. Miller

A strong evidence of the truth of God's Book is to be found in the remarkable agreement between the Book itself and the land where it was written. Upon landing at Joppa the traveler in Palestine is at once struck with the fact that very many of the old-time customs common in Palestine when the Bible was written are adhered to today with all the pertinacity of Oriental conservatism. As he continues his journey to Jerusalem, to Bethlehem, to Hebron, to the valley of the Jordan and the Dead Sea, to Samaria, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee, and to Mount Hermon and the northern boundary of the land, he will be surprised again and again to see the customs of two and three thousand years ago lingering in the lap of the twentieth century of the Christian era. There are so many striking points of agreement between the land and the Book that one is forced to say that in no other country could the Bible have been written, for in no other land are to be found the conditions so definitely stated and so clearly set forth in the Bible. And this agreement confirms our faith in the Book.

If one of our friends, in whom we had implicit confidence, should visit the capital of our country and write a book descriptive of Washington City, telling about the Capitol, the White House, the Congressional Library, the Patent Office, the Smithsonian Institute, the National Museum, the Washington Monument, and other places of general interest, we would accept his statements as being correct; but if later on we should visit the place ourselves and find the conditions agreeing, even in the minutest detail, with what our friend had given us in his work, it would tend to confirm our faith in his truthfulness and veracity. The same is true of Palestine and the Bible. No one can visit the Holy Land with open eyes without being impressed with the truth of the statement that the Book was written there, and nowhere else. As one sees two women grinding at the mill, the shepherd leading his flock,

the farmer in his harvest field and on his threshing floor, the gleaners in the field, the merchant measuring grain, the one-handled plow, the sower casting seed on the ground, the husbandman pruning his vines, the unmuzzled ox treading out the corn, the blind beggars by the wayside, the lepers crying out "Unclean! unclean!" the tares growing among the wheat, the potter at his wheel, the villagers dividing the land by lot, and scores of similar illustrations, he is filled with astonishment and is ready to say, Of a verity the Book of God is true. Seeing these also reveals how Jesus selected His illustrations from among those things with which the common people were familiar and used them to teach the most important truths ever revealed to the world.

Selected from The Eternal Verities

IF GOD WENT ON STRIKE

It's just a good thing God above
Has never gone on strike
Because He wasn't treated fair
Or things He didn't like.
If He had ever once sat down
And said, "That's it - I'm through,
I've had enough of those on earth
So this is what I'll do.

"I'll give my orders to the sun -
Cut off your heat supply,
And to the moon - give no more light
And run those oceans dry.
Then, just to really make it tough
And put the pressure on,
Turn off the air and oxygen
Till every breath is gone."

Do you know He's be justified
If fairness was the game
For no one has been more abused
Or treated with disdain
Than God - and yet He carries on
Supplying you and me
With all the favors of His grace
And everything - for free.

Men say they want a better deal
And so on strike they go,
But what a deal they've given God
To Whom everything we owe.
We don't care whom we hurt or harm
To gain the things we like
But what a mess we'd all be in
If God should go on strike.

- Anonymous
Selected by Brother Paul E. Myers

MARRIAGE

PEFFER-BEEMAN

Brother Steve Beeman, son of Sister Della Beeman, Cumberland, Maryland; and Sister Diane Peffer, daughter of Brother and Sister John Peffer, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, were united in marriage on April 24, 1976 at the Mechanicsburg Dunkard Brethren Church. They are now residing at R.D. 8, Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013.

NEWS ITEMS

NOTES OF THANKS

We would like to express our thanks for our Anniversary cards, gifts and letters. We received fifty-nine cards.

May God bless each one.

Bro. Harry and Sis. Helen Sweitzer

Gratefully appreciative, I wish to express my thanks for your prayers, remembrances, many visits, and cards during my three months absence from my apartment. All of this time I spent in the Mt. Hope Home, except thirteen days - five days in Intensive Care and eight in a semi-private room.

I planned to move to another apartment the day I was taken to the hospital. Seven Brethren and Sisters sensed the need and took care of this in my absence. Surely the love of God dwells in such. Thank you.

Bro. Ray S. Shank

Dear Brethren and Sisters of the Church:

I wish to take this means of thanking each of you who have remembered me with your letters, cards and prayers, during my operation and recovery. I am back home and thanks to the Good Lord, I am getting along fine. It will take some time for me to get back to normal. May God bless each of you for your prayers and good wishes.

In Christian Love,
Bro. W. E. Bashor

ADDITION

Omitted from the recent obituary of Sister Pearl Wertz of the McClave Congregation was the listing of three sisters: Opel Brown, Covington, Ohio; Edna Wolf, Peru, Indiana; and Effie Holsinger, Troy, Ohio. The family regrets that these names were not included in the original printing.

VERY SHORT AND VERY LONG

Life is Very Short. James 4:14; Psalm 90:5.
Time is Very Short. I Cor. 7:29; I John 2:17.
The Sinner's Joy is Short. Job 20:5; II Peter 2:1.
The Saint's Sorrow is Short. II Cor. 4:17; Matt. 24:22.

God is Everlasting. Psalm 90:2; I Tim. 1:17.
God's Love is Everlasting. Psalm 103:17.
The Life to Come is Everlasting. John 3:16.
The Saint's Joy is Everlasting. Psa. 16:11; Isa. 35:10.
The Sinner's Sorrow is Everlasting. Isa. 33:14; Rev. 20:10; Jude 13; Daniel 12:2.

The plainer the dress with greater luster does beauty appear. Virtue is the greatest ornament, and good sense the best equipage. - Saville.

That person proves his worth who can make us want to listen when he is around and think when he is gone.

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Paul R. Myers
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV JULY 15, 1976 NO. 14

"For the faith once for all delivered to the saints."

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ONLY ONE

Only one life to live here,
Only one cross to bear,
Only one Christ to live for
But many the blessings we share.

Only one gateway to heaven,
Only one path leading there,
Only one Bible to lead us
But Satan has many a snare.

Only one purpose to live for,
Only one bright, shining goal,
Only one Saviour to guide us
But many a wandering soul.

No matter what folks say about us,
Regardless of all those astray,
This is the only salvation
So come, dear friends, let us obey.

Selected from The Vindicator

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

Part 2

The Apostle Paul wrote in Galations 5:1, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." When a man is freed from his burden of sin, he is given a new liberty. He gains that liberty through the sacrifice of God's only begotten Son. The Christian is not only free from his past sins but he has a freedom in his new life that is beyond anything Satan had to offer in the world. It is wonderful to consider the price paid for our freedom from sin but it is just as wonderful to consider the new-found freedom of the Christian.

The Christian is warned by Paul to stand in this liberty and to not return to the yoke of bondage. The enticements of Satan would be such as to lure some to return to their former way of life. This would be comparable to the man set free from prison who would shortly return, voluntarily. It would be a poor exchange - freedom for bondage. Christian liberty is so great that it is worthy of our greatest exertions. It is worthy of our standing fast.

When a man enjoys Christian liberty, he has the opportunity of serving God in an acceptable manner. A sinner may do many good and noble deeds but his deeds will never please God. Only a child of God, a Christian, can work the works pleasing to his Heavenly Father. His deeds are acceptable to God, so his freedom is well used.

The Apostle Peter describes the Christian's use of his liberty in I Peter 2:15-16. "For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

to silence the ignorance of foolish men: As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God." This great freedom is to be used not for selfish purposes but as a witness before others. There are many in this evil world who are simply ignorant of the God of the Bible and His ways. Due to their ignorance, they oppose Christians, Christianity and God. Ultimately, they oppose themselves for they separate themselves from the possibility of possessing eternal life. The Christian must use his life in a way that will silence these foolish men. This means his life must be spend in "well doing." Doing good even to enemies can't help but produce some good, or at least enough self-shame, to silence those who opposed good because of their lack of knowledge.

The Christian's freedom is demonstrated not only in his external service to his Heavenly Father but is shown in his inward attitude, where the basis of his outward service lies. This freedom is as needed in Christians today as in those of old. Paul and Silas knew that freedom when locked in the inner most cell of the Phillipian prison. They could praise God in song and prayer at midnight. The first Christian martyr, Stephen, knew this freedom as he preached to an unbelieving, hostile audience and especially as rock after rock hit its mark and brought death closer. Jesus knew this freedom, too, when he stood mute before Pilate. This was a freedom from earth's ties and worries because the inner man had something better than this world's best.

The Christian is freest when he is as close as possible to the will of God. When he uses his freedom to fulfill God's desire he will be free from condemnation and he will be blessed for doing right. The Christians freedom is best used when he becomes Christ's prisoner - willing to serve wherever needed.

If the Christian is to have a witness to the foolish and the ignorant it is certain he must be very careful how he uses his freedom. If it is used as an excuse for wrong-doing or self-advancement, a poor witness will be shown. Those in opposition will have more to accuse Christians of. A freedom that is used to do the will of God can not be used to further the Christian's own desires. In giving himself and his freedom over to God's will, the Christian will be very careful to carry out the commands of his Heavenly Father. A Christian can not be a very effective representative of His Saviour if he does not live the commands his Saviour has delivered. None are impressed with the spoken witness of a professing Christian if he does not dress, act and talk like a Christian is commanded to. So the Christian must be careful of his freedom so it is used to show himself as a servant of God not of self.

Christian are you using your freedom in the way God would will? Sinner do you wish to be free from your burden of sin so you could have this freedom to serve God in an acceptable way?

FIFTY YEARS

Frank B. Surbey

In June of this year, fifty years of Dunkard Brethren History will have been made. Much of this history can be found in our General Conference minutes, much in our local church minutes, some is retained in the minds of individual members, and some will be found in many obituaries. The entire and correct history, however, will be known and recorded in Heaven.

Let us take a retrospective view of our church in 1926, and ever since until the present 1976. What has been her spiritual and numerical progress in fifty years? What have been her hindrances? What part have we as individuals played in the success and failures of the church? Since all of us are created with intellect, feeling, and will, and are responsible to God who made us there certainly will be a reckoning as to what kind of stewards we have been in the church for whom Christ died.

What is the condition of the church today as we start into the next fifty year period? Are we still established on the same foundation we sought in 1926? Do we have the same faith, aim and motto we had then, both in our hearts and on paper? As we look at the rising generation in our homes and in the church, do we have an anchored hope for the church of the future? These are questions worthy of concern.

Is it possible to improve on our history of the past? Can there be any Daniels and Pauls in the church of today and tomorrow? Even though we are in a wicked world where Satan is loose, isn't the Holy Spirit still available? Is the arm of God shortened and the power of the Gospel diminished? Are the promises yet true? These too, are questions we may well consider.

The possibility of a better history in the future lies in our willingness to order our lives in obedience to our baptismal vows, to our conference decisions, and to the teachings of the Bible. We refer here to just a few of the Bible teachings which will be helpful. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." I Cor. 16:13. "Pray without ceasing," I Thess. 5:17. "Abstain from all appearance of evil," I Thess. 5:22. "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33. "If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend," I Cor. 8:13. "Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth," Col. 3:2. "Let love be without dissimulation, abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another," Rom. 12:9-10. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of

truth," II Tim. 2:15. "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the Church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Acts. 20:28.

Selected and Adapted from March 1, 1956
Bible Monitor by Sister Maxine Surbey

CHRIST DIED FOR YOU

"If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." Matt. 27:40b. Jesus didn't come down from the cross, but He died there that we might live. Just think; if Christ hadn't died for us, by being crucified on the cross, we wouldn't be here today! How can we refuse to serve Him, who has done everything for us and even saved our souls? "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13.

Would we be willing to die so that others could be saved? It's a hard question to answer, isn't it? But Christ did die on the cross for us because He loves us. He loves each and everyone, and He was willing to pay for our sins, by dying on the cross. "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." Isa. 53:5.

Christ loves you and He is willing to take you for His own child if you are willing to accept and serve Him today. Can you refuse to love and serve Him, after all He has done for you? He is the only source of life; He wants to give it to you. "Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." John 11:25. Christ isn't really asking that much. He just wants you to give up your sinful ways and to give your heart fully to Him. Then He will replace the sinful desires with better things, such as peace and contentment and a desire to be loving and kind, rather than selfish.

Sinful things such as ungodly music, stylish and indecent clothes, and selfish desires belong to your old way of life. When Christ comes into your heart, you don't want these things. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17.

Remember, Christ does not want us to adorn ourselves outwardly, but to adorn ourselves with a new heart, one with a meek and quiet spirit. See I Peter 3:3-4. Satan is the one who draws our attention to the sinful things because he doesn't want us to serve Christ. He'll do everything possible to keep us from Christ. But if we have the love of

Christ in our hearts and souls, we will have the strength to resist Satan. The Bible says those who are sinful are heading for damnation, which is another word for Hell. You will spend your whole eternity there if you serve Satan instead of Christ.

Nobody can really imagine how beautiful Heaven will be, until we get there. We will always be happy there, for all our sorrows and fears will be left behind. Christ died for us; if we have Him within, we will receive eternal ilfe in Heaven. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I John 5:12. This is not a laughing matter. It is serious. What if Christ came today? Be honest with yourself; where would you spend eternity?

Do you have Christ in your heart today? If you don't, please accept Him now. Christ can give a sorrowful and sinful heart so much. No matter how much you have sinned, Christ will still forgive you, and take you for His own. Are you willing to live for Him? Remember, you never know when your last hour or minute will come in this world. Ask Christ into your heart and serve Him, before it's too late. You'll be glad you did.

This was written with the help of a friend. It is my personal feeling about Christ and all that He means to me. I'm so happy that I accepted Him as my Savior.

Sister LaDonna Carlin
R. 1, Ney, Ohio 43549

BEING A SALESMAN FOR CHRIST

Let me ask a question, here, that will get as varied an answer as there are people who read this. Are you a SALESPERSON? If the answer is "no", how can a person ever expect to win a sinner to Christ? We must be able to "sell" our Savior to the sinner in such a strong fashion that he cannot refuse. We do not have to be a salesperson in the respect that we make our living that way, but we do need to be a full-time salesperson as a Christian.

A lot of times, people shouldn't need to say much, but their lives should be saying alot. If our lives don't "sell" our SAVIOR to the sinner, then we had better change our outlook on life and our way of living. It doesn't matter how much we talk of our Savior, if the sinner cannot see JESUS in our lives, he will not accept Him, either.

To "sell" the idea of accepting our precious SAVIOR to a sinner is one of the most important things of being a salesperson for CHRIST. It should really be easy for Christians to "sell" the idea of JESUS to sinners. Did you ever listen to a salesperson trying to sell someone

something they didn't think they needed or wanted, or even something that would help in his work or make his life just a little easier? The salesperson has to really know his product to be able to sell someone like this. When we go to "sell" the idea of accepting our SAVIOR to a sinner, do we know our product as we should? Can we really get enthused in our "sales pitch"? Do we get enough feeling into words that the sinner knows that we know the product which we are selling and that we know what it will do for us and him? Really, what kind of salesperson are we?

If we worked as a salesperson in this life and sold our commodities as we "sell" the idea of our SAVIOR, would we be able to make a living? When we "sell" the idea of our SAVIOR, we are "selling" the most precious commodity that can be sold.

At some time in our life we have bought something, which made us wonder why we did such a thing. Well, Satan is selling his goods; he is a super salesman. He doesn't even need to describe it or tell what it does, to have people falling-all-over-themselves to buy. We see back in the book of Genesis that the old devil sold Mother Eve on the idea of the forbidden fruit. Are we buying of this fruit?

Our precious SAVIOR has painted a beautiful picture for us of what His commodities will do for us. I can't see why so many people are blind to the fact that it is a beautiful and lasting thing, to serve our LORD as a salesperson. Can't you picture in your mind's eye the beautiful city, the mansion and the crown that our SAVIOR has for his salespeople?

Not only do we as Christian people have to "sell" the idea of our SAVIOR, but we also have to "sell" the Bride of Christ. There are a lot of people who will accept the idea of serving God but aren't interested in the way of the Church.

If we are the right kind of salesman and work with a will and enough zeal, I believe that we can "sell" the sinner, but we need to really work at it because Old Satan is working hard on the other side.

So dear Brother and Sister in Christ let us go forth with a zeal for GOD and "sell" because no one else has a product like ours, and no one else is able to sell it, since we are the ones who know our product.

Let us show Satan what good salesmen and saleswomen we are, that we can, and will, be better salespeople than what he has.

Remembering all of you in prayer,
Brother Orvis Smith
Quinter, Kansas 67752

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One cannot successfully walk with God, while running with the world.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE LORD SAID, "NO", BUT WE WANT TO GO!

Numbers 14

People are funny. If God tells them to do something, they don't want to do it. If He says, "No", then right away that's just what they want. So it was with Israel. God would have driven out their enemies if they had trusted Him, but because they trusted in their own strength, they murmured against Moses and Aaron and said unto them, "Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!" "And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return to Egypt."

Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before the congregation because they feared what God would do to such a rebellious people. Then Joshua and Caleb rent their clothes (which was a sign that they, too, feared the Lord) and they reasoned with the people, "The land is a good land as God said. If God is pleased with us, He is able to bring us into this land and give it to us. Only don't rebel against the Lord, neither fear the people of the land, for the Lord is with us."

The congregation was so angry they were ready to stone Joshua and Caleb. This was going too far so the glory of the Lord appeared in the tabernacle before all the people. He was so displeased with the people that He wanted to destroy them and make a great nation of Moses. But Moses pleaded with God to save the people and not let the Egyptians think that God didn't have the power to take care of His own. The Lord pardoned the people but He told them that they would have to go back into the wilderness for forty years - a year for every day they had searched out the land. Those that were twenty years old or more would never enter the Promised Land but would die in the wilderness - all except Joshua and Caleb, who believed God. God said, "But your little ones which you said should be killed, them will I bring in and they shall know the land which you have despised."

The people mourned greatly when they heard what God said. Then the next morning they rose up early and said, "We will go up unto the place which the Lord hath promised for we have sinned." And Moses said, "Go not up, for the Lord is not among you. If you do, the Amalakites and the Canaanites will cause you to fall by the sword because you are turned away from the Lord. But they went up anyway and their enemies overcame them and chased them out of the land.

How rebellious can we get? Do people act this way today? I am afraid they do. When God tells us in His Holy Word to obey Him and do

those things Jesus taught us, do we do it? When he tells us to abstain from all appearance of evil, do we? We can be like Joshua and Caleb if we will trust God and obey Him.

Brother Rudy Cover

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

SARDIS: The dying Church

Five hundred years before John wrote this letter, Sardis was one of the richest and most powerful cities in the world. It became ethically complacent and morally degenerate and was conquered by Cyrus of Persia, then by Alexander the Great, finally, it was leveled by an earthquake in A.D. 17. The city was later rebuilt by Tiberius Ceasar.

Sardis was still a comparatively important city, but nothing like it had been at its apogee. Sardis was caught-up in the idolatrous worship of the goddess Cybele.

Christ describes Himself, here, as the One who has the seven spirits of God. Christ had this wonderful Spirit, but it was tragically missing in the Sardis Church. The Holy Spirit's ministry is to give power, to teach, to guide, and to equip believers for the Christian life, things not evidenced here, as shown by the "dead" church label. The Lord also speaks of holding the messengers of the churches in His right hand. These messengers were those responsible to deliver Christ's message to each of the churches. This might be intended to remind all ministers (or messengers) of their responsibility to Him to proclaim the TRUE message. I think the ministry needs to preach and demonstrate the absolute necessity of walking in the Spirit at all times.

There was very little commendable in this Church. Jesus said, "You have a few people, even in Sardis, who have not soiled their garments." This refers to walking in the ways of the ungodly world and being squeezed into its mold. It, then, substituted the world's rags for God's riches.

The Church in Sardis was living on a moth-eaten reputation. The people had once been spiritually bright but now they were apparently existing "in the flesh", which is the Greek meaning of the world "dead" in verse 1. Read Rev. 3:1 to 6 and see the real sadness contained there, in viewing a stately, old church building that was built by and filled with enthusiastic Christians, but now draws only a handful of worshippers on Sunday morning. In what state do we find today's true Bible believing Church?

None of us can live on past spiritual victories. Complacency and a

lack of spiritual vision lead from stagnation to actual retrogression, or backsliding, in spiritual life. I think we might actually be moving backward if we are not looking steadily forward in our Christian walk because the world is changing so rapidly. Christ exhorted the church at Sardis and other churches like it, to "wake up" and rebuild and revitalize the good things they do have going for them. If they do not do this, they will die and lose what progress that was previously made. If we, as believers, fail to apply the truth we have learned in the past, it will eventually be taken away and we'll forget the principles of Christian living so when we need to draw on them, they won't be there.

The overcomer, the one who truly believes that Jesus is the Son of God and is his personal Saviour and acts accordingly, is promised many wonderful blessings in this life and in the next life. These will include walking, dressed in white, with Christ, symbolizing the spotless and perfect, righteous character given to the true follower, and his name will remain in the Book of Life. Finally, Jesus will declare the overcomer's victory before the Father and His angels.

The Sardis Church closely resembles the church of the Reformation Era, 1517 to 1751. During this time, the church was reformed, but not revived. Some of the essential doctrines were reclaimed but the rituals and traditions of the medieval church remained. Complacency and legalism set in. Remember, dear reader, that this was the reason for the breaking away by Alexander Mack and others in the 1700's, to form the initial mother church, eventually leading to our current church. May God help us to not get caught-up in the problem of the Sardis church, that of dead orthodoxy.

Brother Leonard Wertz

HEAVEN

"In my Father's house are many mansions...I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:2. Paul tells us of the third heaven, the Paradise of God, "For we know if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1. Paul never doubted there was a Heaven. He pressed forward and prepared for his home in Heaven. As he came close to the end of life here he told them, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." II Tim. 4:8. John gives us a beautiful picture of Heaven in Revelation 21. He "...saw the holy city, new Jerusalem,

coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband." The streets of Heaven are laid with gold, the gates are made of pearl and it has those beautiful jasper walls. This surely is a wonderful representation of the glory, charm and beauty of Heaven itself. The faithful of all ages have a home in Heaven and life everlasting, for Christ has promised this as our reward.

How much courage it gives the young people to press ahead, when we see an aged brother or sister as they come to the end of this life and hear them say the same as the Apostle Paul. They have won a crown of life and a home in Heaven. It is a Home with all the redeemed ones who have gone on before, a "...house not made with hands," but a home in the eternal heavens. To all the faithful, Jesus will say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Matt. 25:34. He also tells us, "...and they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God." Luke 13:29.

Won't it be wonderful to know each other over in that home beyond this veil of tears? It will be a wonderful thing to be able to tread the streets of gold. We won't need any candles for light, for Christ is the light. If we are willing to trust and obey our Blessed Master, He will also bear our burdens. Instead of trials and sorrows, all will be joy around our Dear Father's Throne. So many times here, we are discouraged and disappointed, then we turn our minds and think of the things Above. We are sure if we are faithful we won't be disappointed in Heaven. Phil. 3:20, "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." Paul gives us the same idea in Heb. 13:14, "For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come." In Rev. 4:1 we read of a second vision, or group of visions, concerning God's presence in Heaven. The Throne is set in Heaven with the Eternal God sitting upon it. We find here, man does not know, yet, all God's plans or His ways of their fulfillment as recorded in Revelations but we are sure of a Home because He has told us, He would go away to prepare a place for you and me and that He would come again and receive us unto Himself. If we are truly followers of Jesus, we will strive to live closer, preparing ourselves for that Mansion, He has prepared for us in Heaven.

Sister E.M. Alltus

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Many people develop a split personality because they try to be sinners and saints at the same time.

DON'T LOOK BEHIND YOU

Satan may be right at your heels, but if you keep your eyes on Jesus, you will be strengthened. If you look back, you will be afraid or discouraged, and failure will follow. Christ has already overcome the world, and by our faith in Him, we can also overcome the world. We may have lots of trials, but we can still have peace within, because of our Savior. "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye may have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John 16:33.

Some people start out serving the Lord, then look back wistfully. They wish they were not tied to Christian principles, so they could satisfy their personal desires for certain sinful pleasures. "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62. Once you decide to serve the Lord, hang on to your decision. It is dangerous to turn your attention elsewhere and to start putting other things ahead of Christ.

When Jesus walked on the Sea of Galilee, Peter stepped out of the ship and also walked on the water. After Jesus told him to come, Peter was alright until he took his eyes off Jesus. He saw how boisterous the wind was and became afraid. Immediately, he began to sink. He cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" Jesus extended His hand and caught Peter and said into him, "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" Why did Peter doubt when Jesus was so close He could touch him? It was because Peter focused his attention on the storm, rather than on Christ's care and power to help.

Does Jesus ever have to ask you where your faith is and why you doubt when He is right there with you all the time? Peter had many spiritual ups and downs, but later on was steadfast in the Lord. He was stable and faithful then because he looked to Jesus above all others. Read Acts 4:18-20. This is where you and I must look in order to be faithful. We can never succeed on our own. "...for without me you can do nothing." John 15:5b.

The angels took Lot, his wife and daughters out of Sodom and told them to flee for their lives. They were not to look back, lest they be consumed. Lot's wife did look back and, immediately, became a pillar of salt. The Bible doesn't say why she looked back, but her disobedience cost her, her life. God had extended His mercy to them, for the angels could do nothing until Lot and his family were safe. Because his wife disobeyed, the mercy was withdrawn. So it is with us. God expects obedience and He will not extend His mercy if we want to go back into sin.

The children of Isreal kept looking back to Egypt, even though they couldn't stand the suffering while they were slaves there. They fussed

and fretted because their menu of manna didn't have the variety of the meat and vegetables of Egypt. They had been mistreated and abused, yet they kept looking back instead of looking to the Lord who had set them free. They weren't satisfied with what God gave. Is this the way we are? God does bless and care for us, yet we think if only we had a little of this or of that. If we get our eyes on Jesus and realize what He has done for us, we'll be more content.

Looking at things in this world may be a temptation to us. Eve looked at the forbidden fruit; she liked the looks of it so well, that she took some for herself and Adam, starting humanity on the path of sin. Lot desired the well-watered plains of Jordan and pitched his tent toward wicked Sodom, the city he later was rescued from. Achan looked at a garment and some gold and silver, then took it to his tent, contrary to God's command. As a result, he and his whole family were destroyed. These things looked good, but it would have been far better to do God's will.

Where we look controls our lives. If we look backward to sin as Lot's wife did, we can't progress and may die spiritually. If we look up to Christ, we can be saved. Looking at our difficulties, as Peter did, can cause discouragement and failure. Looking Heavenward during our difficulties, as Stephen did, glorifies God. "Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him." Heb. 10:38. Faith looks ahead for something better and that faith is necessary to please God.

We walk the Christian way by faith, because we have our eyes on the reward, Eternal Life. "But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?" Gal. 4:9. After having faith in God, there is no sensible reason to desire to, again, be in bondage to sin. It is a blessing to be free in Christ and we should look to Him always. Satan tries to defeat us, but through Christ, the victory is ours. Look to Jesus "...because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world." I John 4:4b.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THREE CLASSES IN HELL

Neglectors of Salvation - Too Busy to Take it. Heb. 2:3.
Rejectors of Salvation - Too Proud to Need it. John 12:48; Matthew 5:20; 6:16
Despisers of Salvation - Too Wise to Heed it. Acts 13:41; 19:26-28; 24:24-25; 26:24.

NEWS ITEMS

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Goshen Congregation will be having a two weeks revival meeting July 11th through 25th with our Harvest Meeting at the close of our meetings. Bro. Paul Hartz of Palmyra, Pennsylvania will be our evangelist.

Our fall communion will be October 30, starting at 2:00 Sat. afternoon.

A welcome to all who can be with us.

Sister Maxine Swihart

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to another two week Revival Meeting this summer. Our evangelist will be Bro. Paul Hartz of Palmyra, Pennsylvania. These meetings will be from August 1st through the 15th. Pray for these meetings, and come and worship with us.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dunkard Brethren Church at Dallas Center, Iowa, is planning Revival Meetings. The Lord willing, Elder Dean St. John of Alvordton, Ohio, will be with us from August 8 through August 22, 1976. We will conclude our revival with all-day services August 21 and 22. Lovefeast is planned the evening of August 21.

Please come to worship and fellowship with us. We desire your earnest prayers for these meetings.

Sister Juanita Reed, Cor.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

Revival Meetings will be held at the Ridge Congregation, the Lord willing, July 4 through July 11. Bro. Eugene Kauffman, Harrisonburg, Virginia will be the speaker. Lovefeast services will be on Saturday, July 10. Come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Irene Harris, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Swallow Falls, Maryland's Revival will be August 15 to 22. Services each evening at 7:30. Bro. John Peffer, Carlisle, Pennsylvania will be the evangelist. Love Feast on August 21, at 2:30 p.m.

Pray for, and come to Swallow Falls.

Sister Ruth M. Smyder, Cor.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank all you dear Sisters and Brethren for the prayers,

cards, letters, and gifts I received during my illness and stay in the hospital.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Sister Ollie M. Mallow

MARRIAGES

STAUFFER-SIEGRIST

Sister Lucy Jane Stauffer, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Edwin Stauffer, Newmanstown, R. 1, Pennsylvania and Bro. Timothy Mark Siegrist, son of Mr. and Mrs. Abram Siegrist, Manheim, R. 4, Pennsylvania, were united in marriage, May 15, 1976, at the Hess Mennonite Church, near Lititz. Elder Allen Eberly, uncle of the bride, performed the ceremony, after a message was brought by Bro. Jack Snyder.

They are residing at Rt. 4, Manheim, Pennsylvania.

ST. JOHN-DENNIS

Sis. LuAnn St. John, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Dean St. John, R. 1, Alvordton, Ohio and Bro. Randy E. Dennis, son of Bro. and Sis. Harold W. Dennis, R. 1, Stevens, Pennsylvania were united in marriage, May 29, 1976 at the Pleasant Ridge Dunkard Brethren Church. After a message brought by Bro. Melvin Roesch, Bro. Dean St. John performed the marriage ceremony.

They are living at 910 Opal Street, Ephrata, Pennsylvania.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST

Aug. 8 - Eliphas Reproves Job. Job 4:1-21.

Aug. 15 - God Will Not Cast Away A Perfect Man. Job 8:1-22.

Aug. 22 - "My Soul is Weary". Job (9) 10:1-22.

Aug. 29 - "Can You By Searching Find Out God?" Job. 11:1-20

QUESTIONS:

(1) What did Eliphas accuse Job of? Job 4:8.

(2) Had Job been a perfect man? Job 1:8. How do we reconcile this with I John 1:10?

(3) Did Job consider himself a wicked man? Job 10:7.

(4) Did Zophar think that Job was a liar? Job 11:3.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR AUGUST
COME AND COMFORT

Memory Verse, II Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-wad, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Sun. 1 - II Peter 3:1-18
Mon. 2 - I John 2:1-29
Tues. 3 - I John 4:1-21
Wed. 4 - I John 5:1-21
Thurs. 5 - II John 1-13
Fri. 6 - III John 1-14
Sat. 7 - Jude 1-25

Memory Verse, I John 2:28

And now, little children, abide in him; that when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Sun. 8 - Rev. 1:1-20
Mon. 9 - Rev. 2:1-29
Tues. 10 - Rev. 3:1-22
Wed. 11 - Rev. 4:1-11
Thurs. 12 - Rev. 6:1-17
Fri. 13 - Rev. 9:1-21
Sat. 14 - Rev. 10—1-11

Memory Verse, I John 4:2

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:

Sun. 15 - Rev. 11:1-19
Mon. 16 - Rev. 12:1-17
Tues. 17 - Rev. 13:1-18
Wed. 18 - Rev. 14:1-20
Thurs. 19 - Rev. 15:1-8
Fri. 20 - Rev. 16:1-21
Sat. 21 - Rev. 17:1-18

Memory Verse, I John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Sun. 22 - Rev. 18:1-24
Mon. 23 - Rev. 19:1-21
Tues. 24 - Rev. 20:1-15
Wed. 25 - Rev. 21:1-27
Thurs. 26 - Rev. 22:1-27
Fri. 27 - Gen. 5:1-32
Sat. 28 - Gen. 18:1-15

Memory Verse, Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

Sun. 29 - Gen. 24:34, 67
Mon. 30 - Gen. 37:18-36
Tues. 31 - Gen. 50:1-26

Memory Verses, Rev. 18:4

And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

Rev. 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV AUGUST 1, 1976 NO. 15

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

IT'S UP TO YOU

Have you made someone happy
  or made someone sad
What have you done
  with the day you had?
God gave it to you
  to do just as you would
Did you do what was wicked,
  or what was good
Did you hand out a smile,
  or push someone down?
Did you lighten some load,
  or some progress impede?
Did you look for a rose,
  or just gather a weed?
What did you do
  with your beautiful day?
God gave it to you,
  did you throw it away?

Anonymous

HOME FROM CONFERENCE

In this issue will be found notes on the 1976 General Conference. These notes can only give a faint impression of the sermons, activities and fellowship of this conference. These notes will serve as a reminder to those who were privileged to attend Conference and will give a glimpse of Conference to those who "stayed by the stuff".

Those who were at Conference have had their Christian responsibility increased from setting under the sound of the Gospel. Those who went away from Conference in an unsaved condition, by refusing God's mercy also have increased their responsibility. Now those, who were not at Conference, who read these simple notes will have their responsibility increased as well. Those who heard or now read these sermons and yet disregard their message place a fearful burden on their souls. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17.

When assembled in a General Conference with its Spiritual food and Heavenly fellowship, it is the desire of each heart to remain and to not return home. It is such a wonderful time when the world with its pettiness and allurements is shut out by the Bible's truth and fellowship's love. But it is necessary to leave and return to our individual homes spread across this land. We cannot fulfill our commission to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you . . ." if we remain at Conference all year long. Here we are to be revived and instructed so we can with greater courage and knowledge carry out this and all other of God's commands.

THE BIBLE MONITOR AUGUST 1, 1976

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

Jesus was with His disciples and Apostles day-in and day-out during His earthly ministry so they might be taught and strengthened. After His resurrection, He was again with them for another forty days teaching them many things. Some were with Him at the time of His Ascension. After He had disappeared in the clouds they continued to gaze at the space where He had last been seen. But this was interrupted by two angels who said, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into Heaven?" They were reassured that Jesus would return again but their mere gazing up into the heavens would not hasten that day's coming. For us to stay at Conference continually would be the same as gazing blindly into the heavens. The Apostles were reminded they had a work to do; there were definite commands given that needed to be carried out.

A sponge is good to soak up liquid many times greater than the size of the sponge itself. Christians often face the danger of becoming sponges. They soak up good sermons and enjoy sweet fellowship but they give off nothing themselves. To use Conference only as a loading station, as good as the diet may be, is to become a sponge. Conference must be a prod to the Christian that he strive to live out his Saviour's Testament, himself, and to share it with others.

Conference is a very pleasant time but there comes the hour when it must end and we must go to the work. There is no place in this wicked world for "rocking-chair" Christians. Every Christian must be "about His Father's business." Too many are at ease in Zion feeling that their decision to become a Christian entitles them to do what they please. But no beds of flowery ease have been promised to the converted. Jesus did not know ease - there was no place to lay His head, no home to call His own, not even a grave to receive His broken body. Why should the ones who choose to follow Him as their example have it so much easier?

The sermons heard at Conference should not be that which is merely soaked-up by the sponges rather they should be received as challenges. They should be challenges to a holier, purer life. A life that will be lived in fulfillment of vows made when the Christian gave his heart to the Lord and his hand to the Church. Hearing the Word of God should challenge each to make not only the promises, but the privileges of service, his. The joy of Conference should challenge each present to go forth into the white harvest-fields so there might be more who could enjoy Conference next year. The challenge of the sermons bringing to mind the worth of a soul, the shortness and uncertainty of time and the value of God's Word should be great enough to each of us to go forth and labor in His moral Vineyard.

Are you a gazer, a rocker, a sleeper? If so come alive and be challenged by these Conference thoughts and by the Spirit behind them!

CHILDREN'S PAGE

TROUBLE-MAKERS

Numbers 16:1-36

Israel refused to go into the Promised Land. Because they didn't have faith in God, God decreed that they must wander in the wilderness for forty years. This caused resentment among the children of Israel; some of them began to blame Moses for all their troubles. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were leaders of Israel, who persuaded two hundred and fifty princes of Israel and men of renown to rise up against Moses and Aaron. They said, ". . the congregation is holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them: why then do you lift up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?" They simply meant that they were just as good as Moses and Aaron and should have a part in the leadership of Israel. Imagine a people, who had disobeyed God so many times, saying they were holy! They blamed Moses for all their troubles. I suppose they thought if only they could do the telling they could soon get out of the wilderness. Moses was only doing exactly as God had said, but these men were dissatisfied; they wanted the blessings of the Promised Land without any effort on their part. Many people today think that way about Heaven. They want to go to Heaven - but they don't want to do what God tells them - they want their own way.

Korah was of the tribe of Levi and was one of those separated from the congregation to serve the tabernacle of God. Moses tried to tell him how God had been good to him in giving him such an important place in Israel and he also said, "And seek ye the priesthood also?" Can't you be satisfied with your position without murmuring aginst Aaron?

And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram. They said, "We will not come up." They were rebellious and weren't going to do anything Moses asked them. They also complained that Moses had not brought them to the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey nor given them an inheritance of fields and vineyards.

Moses told Korah to take the two hundred and fifty men and have each man take a censer. A censer is a lamp to burn incense in. They stood in the door of the tabernacle. Korah gathered all the congregation unto the door of the tabernacle and the glory of the Lord appeared unto all the people.

The Lord spoke unto Moses and said, "Get away from the houses of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. Moses warned the people to get away. So the people went away from Korah, Dathan and Abiram and they were left alone with their families and all that belonged to them. Then Moses said, "If these men die like all other men, then the Lord hath not sent me, but if the earth

open up her mouth and swallow them up, then you shall understand that these men have provoked the Lord." As soon as Moses quit speaking there was an earthquake. The ground split apart and Korah, Dathan and Abiram and all that they had were swallowed up by the earth and were seen no more. At the same time there was a fire that came from the Lord which consumed the two hundred and fifty princes and renowned men of Israel who also rebelled against Moses.

God had to show Israel that He meant exactly what He said. What does God's Word mean to you today? Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that He brought from Heaven a saving Gospel? If you do, you will want to obey everything that Jesus has commanded.

Brother Rudy Cover

1976 GENERAL CONFERENCE NOTES

The Conference of 1976 has been added to the history of the Dunkard Brethren Church. It was one that will long be remembered by those who were privileged to attend. God blessed with warm, sunny weather except Sunday, which was cool with occasional light showers.

The Cleona Camp management went all-out to see that each one was comfortable. The meals were exceptional.

Again this year we were greatly impressed by the wonderful group of young people, the future Church. Tuesday evening a large group of them gathered in front of the tabernacle for a song fest, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone within hearing distance. One Sister remarked that the singing alone was well worth the trip to Conference.

A goodly group had gathered on the grounds by Friday evening so it was decided to hold a short service. Bro. L.A. Shumake of Virginia brought the message.

Saturday morning a large number gathered for the morning worship. Bro. James Kegerreis was song leader and Bro. Harley Rush led the devotions using Psalms 139 with verse 14 as his text.

Man has forgotten the purpose for which God created him. Heart surgery is wonderful but the knowledge came from God. May the Holy Spirit be present in each service of our Conference.

Saturday forenoon gave each one a chance to meet old and new friends. Conference is just a foretaste of meeting our Saviour and loved ones on the other shore.

Saturday P.M.

Services were held with a well-filled tabernacle.

Song leader: Bro. John Meyers.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Robert Carpenter. Text: Acts 2:32-47.

This renewed our knowledge of how the church ws first organized and carried on.

First Speaker: Bro. Virgil Leatherman

It is later than we think. Rom. 13:11-14, Matt. 24 gives us many signs of the last days. Our children may be disobedient today because we have allowed Satan to bring things into the home that keep Christ out.

Second Speaker: Bro. Carl Broadwater. Luke 12:22-32; Luke 16:22; I Cor. 12:12-20.

Where would we be if it were not for the love of God and His longsuffering. Acts 2:42-46; Phil. 4:19; Rev. 3:12; Rev. 3:21-23. These verses show us God's goodness and His concern for His children.

Closing: Bro. David Skiles.

We must have concern for the Church, ourselves and others. Mary chose the good part. We NEED Christ. It is not our wants but our needs that count with God and those He promises to supply.

Saturday Evening

Song leader: Bro. Merle Swihart

Opening Devotions: Bro. Clyde Schultz.

II Peter 1 using verses 4-6 as the key for his thoughts. God's prophecies never fail. The Bible adds to our lives but the world subtracts many things.

Speaker: Bro. Edward Johnson. Text: Hebrews 13:20. Subject: The Everlasting Covenant.

Standing on the promises will decide where we will spend eternity. The testament is sealed by His blood. A will is in effect only after the death of the testator. On the cross Christ said, "It is finished." and His covenant was sealed forevermore.

How do we prove we have accepted Christ? Rom.3:25. By baptism, we are buried in His death and raised in His resurrection. How much do we hear from these services? There is only one Church and may the Dunkard Brethren be part of it. None of our adding or subtracting will get us to Heaven. A check is only a piece of paper until it is endorsed. Do we endorse the Bible and its promises. The Word is sealed by Christ's blood and we must eat and drink worthily, if we expect to enter His rest. God's promises are true. Do we have faith enough to accept them? "Shall I find faith on earth when I return?"

Closing song. "When I See the Blood I Will Pass Over You"

Bro. Jacob Ness at the close of Bro. Johnson's sermon very forcibly asked the question, "What have you and I heard?"

Bro. George Replogle in closing gave the thought Satan wants us to doubt. It takes us away from God's promises.

Sunday Morning

Morning Devotions: Bro. Paul Blocker. II Tim. 2.

Do not become entangled in the things of this world. We must endure all things. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God. . ." then follow in the ways of the Lord.

Sunday A.M.

Opening Devotions: Bro. James Kegerreis. Text: Psalms 51.

First Speaker: Bro. Emery Wertz. Subject: In the Beginning GOD. Text: Genesis 1:1.

Men disbelieve the Bible which is sure. A man bought a barometer and upon putting it up, it at once registered a tornado warning which it held all day. He was much disgusted and at once wrote a letter to the company, he got it from, telling them it was no good. On his return from the post office he found his house and the barometer had blown away. God's Word is true and His prophecies will always be fulfilled. Disbelief and doubt are the devil's tools. There is confusion in the world because we have left God's commands out of our lives.

Second Speaker: Bro. Allen Eberly. Subject: "Set Thine House in Order". Text: II Kings 20:1.

The handwriting is on the wall again today. Do we read it and heed it? Psalms 116:15. May we be good housekeepers. This is a time for sober thinking.

Sunday P.M.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Harry Gunderman. Isaiah 62.

Let us not betray the trust of the Church.

Song: "Draw Me Nearer Lord." May that be our prayer.

First Speaker: Bro. Howard Surbey. Subject: "Be Ye Also Ready". Text: Matt. 24:36-44. Verse 44.

Ready means approved or available. Can God apply both adjectives to us? The Holy Spirit has been guiding throughout the Conference sermons. Without previous knowledge the subjects of the various speakers have all centered around the same theme: Christ's Commands and His Coming Again. A man forgot his pocket book and had to make a trip home before he could make his purchase. He was not Ready. The word "ready" is used fifteen times in the New Testament. Believers are divided on how, when and where Jesus will come. The time is short and as time speeds up we are less apt to be ready. Will we be like Peter or like Paul? Matt. 22:4-8; Matt. 25:8-10; Luke 22:31-34; I Pet. 1:3-5 and 3:15; Titus 3:1; II Tim. 4:6-7; Rom. 3:11-14.

Song: "Come and Dine."

Second Speaker: Bro. Warren Smith, Subject: "For What is Your Life". Text: James 4:14.

We are only a heart beat away from Christ's coming. What is our life? Where do we turn when things go wrong? We should be building by the Word of God. From the story of the rich man and Lazarus we have no time to lose to be ready. We can't buy life or store it. Eph. 5:1-17. Let us walk as children of light. We are only a pail of water in the ocean of life.

Last song: "Each Step I Take Just Leads Me Closer Home".

Closing: Bro. Laverne Keeney. I John 5:7.

In the game of hide and seek the one who is "it" calls, "Coming". Some may call back, "Not ready". Finally the one who is "it" will call, "Coming, ready or not". What a true picture of Christ. He has given us time to get ready for His coming and someday He will come in all His glory if we are ready or not.

The last song fitted the afternoon messages, "Jesus is Coming to Earth Again, What if it Were Today."

Sunday Evening

Opening Devotions: Bro. David Ebling.

He commented on the inspiration of the opening singing.

Hebrews 11:33; Ephesians 6:10-18.

He emphasized the need of the young people in the Church of the future.

First Speaker: Bro. Ray Reed. Subject: Investments and Life Insurance. Luke 12:6-37 with verse 34 as his text.

The Rock of Gibraltar is known for its firm foundation from the beginning of the world. The Prudential Life Insurance Company is also known as one of the oldest and best in the United States. How much surer and safer are our treasures in Heaven than either of these worldly examples. The work of the Church is the work of God. The value of one soul is more than the whole world. Where are our treasures tonight? We are so involved in today's material things that we forget God and His commands. We are called to a life of service for God. Rom. 13:11-14; Luke 6:27-38.

Do we short change God in our lives? He read Bro. Jim Meyer's article from the April 15, 1976 Bible Monitor which should be an inspiration to our young people. Are we putting into the Church as much as we put into the government?

Second Speaker: Bro. Dean St. John.

If we expect the young folks to carry on the Church we must give them something to carry on, a heritage of value. Compromise has never made the Church strong because it comes from the devil. The Church must have

moral purity, soberness and respect. I Peter 4:7; Titus 2. The condition we leave this world in is the way we meet God. A group of young people were involved in a fatal accident. Some were drunk, some were involved in adultery. What a serious way to meet God, but Satan laughs at his success. Respect is old-fashioned but scriptural. Respect for the home has gone down the drain along with respect for the Church. Honor thy father and mother. Heb. 13:7; I Tim. 5:22. People have lost their shame. Observe the rules of the Church for modesty. We are watchmen on the walls of Zion. Look for the beauty of holiness and keep yourselves pure. Socrates said, "I pray thee, Oh God, that I may be beautiful within."

Let's live our religion. We get so busy being Church members we forget to be Christians. We are either children of God or children of the devil. Ecc. 12:1-14.

Closing: Bro. David Skiles.

We have piggy banks for the children or we open bank accounts for them. Do we give them a spiritual account? Don't break the piggy bank for candy. Let's make a spiritual investment of time, talents and money.

Monday Morning

Song leader: Bro. Harley Rush. "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow".

Devotions: Bro. Melvin Roesch. Psalms 91.

Noah found grace in the sight of God. Daniel and the Hebrew children trusted His greatness and found His strength sufficient for each of their dangers.

Monday A.M.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Fred Pifer. Col. 2:1-11.

Verse 3 gave the basis for his thoughts. In the 200 years of the history of our nation we gained much knowledge but how much wisdom. Do we have especially the wisdom that comes from God?

Bible Study: Teacher: Bro. John Carpenter. Subject: Wisdom. Proverbs 3:13-35.

Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. Do we use worldly wisdom or godly wisdom? Godly wisdom makes us humble while worldly wisdom exalts.

First Speaker: Bro. Milton Cook. Subject: Heavenly Treasures in Earthen Vessels. Text: II Cor. 4:1-18.

Earthen vessels are easily broken but Heavenly treasures are everlasting. The treasure is greater than the vessel. Do we consider our Heavenly treasure above our earthly riches?

Closing: Bro. Robert Carpenter.

Closing hymn: Oh to be like thee, Stamp thy own image deep on my heart, Fit me for life and Heaven above.

Monday P.M.

Song leader: Bro. Martin Meyers.

Opening Devotions: Bro. John Peffer. Rom. 2:1-29.

God is no respecter of persons. We need the Spirit. Circumcision must be in the heart not in the flesh. The sin of nakedness and the sins brought out on television have taken the world by storm.

First Speaker: Bro. Eugene Kauffman. Subject: The Price of Success. Text: I Timothy 4:13.

All subjects on the program so far have pointed to getting ready for Heaven. The closer we live to God the more salesmen Satan will send out. I Tim. 4:6-16; Act. 5. Here we have the qualities that made success for the Apostles and will do the same for us.

Second Speaker: Bro. David Kegerreis. Subject: Why Did We Come to Conference? Text: Romans 12:1-8.

Placing ourselves under the mercies of God. What is life? Having a gay time? You may be a member of the Church but if your heart is not right it means nothing. We all know the story of Joseph and how he returned good for evil to his brethren. His life was a success both for God and himself. Elisha's servant, who took pay from Naaman, after he was healed, received leprosy as punishment, on himself and his seed.

What are we living for? Ask yourself that question each morning. Satan is not satisfied with the world today but is pulling it deeper and deeper into sin. He is also working harder to make the Church fail in God's purpose for it. Are we giving the Elders trouble? Are we trying to be friends of the world and friends of the Church at the same time?

Closing: Bro. Fred Pifer.

When we become small and He becomes great we are a success. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Monday Evening

Song Leader: Bro. Ezra Beery.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Howard Myers. Revelation 20.

Is your name written in the Book of Life?

First Speaker: Bro. Harley Rush. Text: Luke 15:1-7.

The Lord is our Shepherd. Are we concerned about those who have wandered away into the paths of sin? As we leave the Conference do we care for those outside the fold? Luke 15:8-10. Do we light our candle and search for those that are lost? Luke 15:11-24. The father loved both of his sons and was willing to forgive the one who left home and squandered all his inheritance, when he returned.

He told the story of the boy who had angrily left home and was now returning on the train, not knowing whether his father would accept him or not. He had sent his father word to hang a white cloth on a tree near his home, which he could see from the train as it passed his home, if he was welcome home again. The boy anxiously awaited the sight of the tree. How happy he was when he saw the tree nearly covered with white cloths. God is even more willing to receive us back in the fold than that father.

Comment by Bro. Jacob Ness.

Luke tells us the shepherd laid the lost sheep on his shoulders. The sheep was as willing to be brought back as the shepherd was to bring it back.

Second Speaker: Bro. Charles Leatherman. Subject: The Hope of Glory. Text: Col. 1:27.

Put a frog in water and heat it gradually, the frog will stay in and be scalded to death. Satan works gradually, let us beware! Christ has given us just as plain a command as God gave to Eve. Let us listen and obey. How thankful we should be the Gentiles were grafted in.

The closing song, "Jesus Paid It All" only added one more thought to the Conference theme.

Closing: Bro. William Carpenter.

He used the thought of the song, "The Ninety and Nine" to add to the thought of the Good Shepherd.

Tuesday Morning

Song leader: Sis. Clara Gunderman.

Devotions: Bro. Allen Eberly. Lamentations 3:1-25.

God has an abundance. Let us meditate on God's goodness throughout this day.

Tuesday A.M.

Song leader: Bro. Virgil Leatherman.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Paul Hartz.

Have you had any heart burns in the Church? We don't need pills just a closer walk with God.

Bible Study: Teacher: Bro. James Noecker. Subject: Thoughts and Actions. Ecc. 5:1-20.

We have no trouble getting folks close to the dining hall but they are not so willing when it comes to spiritual food. Peter underestimated the power of Satan. We get our actions before our thoughts. We are more ready to talk than to hear. Vows are more important yet than promises. It was a well-known saying in our forefathers' time that a Dunkard's promise was as good as his note but not so today in every case. Let's be careful before we promise

or vow. To obey is better than sacrifice. Thoughts come from God or Satan. Get in the mood for worshiping God. Phil. 4:8; II Peter 1:5.

Speaker: Bro. Robert Carpenter. Subject: What Does the Future Hold for Us? Text: Matt. 24.

Jeane Dixon's prophecies are not always right. God's are sure and never fail. This world will pass away but the Church will be taken out.

In the image given to Daniel much of the prophecy has been fulfilled but the ten nations in the Common Market of today may represent the ten toes of iron mixed with clay. Men are getting smarter, weaker and wiser. Rev. 3:16. "... because thou are ... neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out.. The goal of our life should be to live so we can say, "Even so come Lord, Jesus." May we think of the future in terms of God and not in fear of death.

Closing: Bro. L. A. Shumake. Heb. 2:1-3.

Sometimes we slip and fall. How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? If we neglect our children they will wander away and we will be sorry.

Tuesday P.M.

Song leader: Bro. Tom St. John.

A fitting song "Send the Light".

Opening: Bro. David Kegerreis. Acts 2:22-47.

The start of the Lord's Church. Peter's sermon not only to the Jews but to whomsoever will.

Speaker: Bro. David Skiles. Acts 28:1-31. Text verses 30 and 31.

Our minds are often filled with things of the world which may not be an honor to God.

Bro. Kyle Reed gave a brief history of the founding of the Mission. Brethren D. W. Hostetler, Ord Stryer and Kyle Reed were the first committee to look for a place. God had a guiding hand in leading to a meeting between the committee and Ray Martindale who had already laid ground plans for a mission at Torreon. It was finally decided by the Church to take over his mission. Ecc. 9:10 was the incentive that led the committee on. Today, with twenty years of mission work behind us we find God still blessing in the work. Many Navajos know the happiness that comes from serving God. Bro. Newton Jamison also spoke of God's blessings on the Mission through the years.

Bro. Skiles: The first Navajo to be buried in the mission cemetery was the medicine man. Today there are 162 graves in the cemetery. The missionaries have found the Navajos are patient and that family ties are very close.

The mission is now printing tracts, on the printing press God gave, also a small bulletin especially for the Navajos.

The Dunkard Church needs more soul winning. Small congregations need our help. Good ground makes poor Christians. We become self-sufficient and forget God.

Two monks traveling down a road, found a traveler sick and fallen by the wayside. One monk said, "What will we do with this wretched man?" The other replied, "How can you call anyone worthless that Christ died for?" Which monk are you?

Torreon means "high place". Let's make it high in God's sight and keep His work going.

Closing: Bro. Fred Pifer.

In traveling through the desert what do we see? Just the rocks and desert sand, or do we see the people? They have five fingers like us. If they scratch one it bleeds like ours would. They weep as we do. Let's venture in God's work for them.

Tuesday Evening

Song leader: Bro. Harley Rush.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Frank Shaffer. Luke 4:31-44.

People want to be left alone in their sin. Jesus went to many, preaching. His message of love still comes to us if we would only listen.

Speaker: Bro. William Carpenter. Text: Mark 16:9-16.

What is a missionary? Someone sent to carry a religious message. One who spreads a new idea. Persecutions came and the disciples went everywhere preaching the Gospel. Philip was a missionary to the eunuch.

Where is the missionary field? Who is the missionary? Where we live is the field and we are the missionaries.

Satan also has his missionaries. In business we must please the customer. We are in God's business. Let's give His message to those we come in contact with. Then we will have no reason to make good, any false promises. Satan wants us to help pull someone else down but let our message come from a heart purified by the blood of Jesus. I Cor. 12:21; II Cor. 5:17-21; Rom. 4:24-25.

Closing: Bro. Joseph Flora.

Wednesday Morning

Song leader: Sis. Aurelia Wertz

Devotions: Bro. James Kegerreis. Psalms 90.

As a shepherd boy David learned to worship and adore God. There is no peace in this world. The Church must stand firm on God's commands. Satan wants the Church of the living God but he will never get it.

We have had good, old-fashioned preaching in this Conference, let's go home and do some good, old-fashioned living.

Business Session

Opening Devotions: Bro. Paul Blocker. Ephesians 2.

The new officers of Conference were announced:

Moderator, Bro. Howard Surbey

Reading Clerk, Bro. William Carpenter

Writing Clerk, Bro. Joseph Flora

There were 58 delegates present.

The Sunday School Offering of $1,230.04 was given to the Publication Board.

The General Conference Offering of $860.68 was given to the Trustee Board.

The Mission Board Offering was $1,760.54.

Sister Ruth Drake
Rt. 3, Box 312
Manheim, Pa. 17545

NEWS ITEMS

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Waynesboro Congregation plans to hold a revival meeting August 30 to September 12. Elder Laverne Keeney, Lititz, Pennsylvania, will be the evangelist.

Pray for these services that souls might be saved while there is still time and opportunity.

We invite all who can to come, worship and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

It is not necessary to blow out your neighbor's light, in order to let your own shine.

Death is the end of the chapter on time, but it is the beginning of the next chapter eternity.

MARRIAGE

PIKE-HEISEY

Sister Renee Pike, daughter of Brother and Sister Wayne Pike of West Unity, Ohio and Brother Stephen Heisey, son of Brother and Sister William Heisey of Bradford, Ohio were united in marriage on Saturday afternoon, June 12, 1976.

Elder Melvin Roesch, grandfather of the bride, performed the ceremony at the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church.

Their address is R. 1, Fayette, Ohio 43521.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank all the Brothers and Sisters for your prayers, visits, cards and gifts during my shut-in days. May God richly bless each one of you.

Sister Cindy Burkholder and family

NOTICE

The new printing of the Brethren Hymnal is now available from the members of the Publication Board. The new price is:

One copy - $3.50

A dozen - $39.50

It is requested that the buyer pay shipping charges.

There are no accidents in God's dealings. All things have divine purpose.

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All contributions to the various Boards should be made out of the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV AUGUST 15, 1976 NO. 16

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

JUST HAVE FAITH

Though our lives seem dull and cheerless,
Be the weather cold and gray
We can always find some comfort
If we've only faith to pray.

For God is in His heaven,
Ever ready to bestow
Loving kindness and forgiveness
On His children here below.

If we will be cheerful,
Help our brother with his load;
It will lighten many heartaches
As we walk life's winding road.

If you find someone has fallen,
Do not spurn, but give him aid;
Tell him of his Master's promise—
Speak God's message, unafraid.

—Audrey Shumake

MISSIONARY WORK

Before His Ascension, Jesus left His Church a commission to go forth bearing the Precious Seed. His commssion was not only for the few who heard Him utter, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world," but for us as well. The commission includes us today, for it contains a promise of His blessing until the end of this age. We dare not extract one part of this commission to support the doctrine of trine immersion then ignore the going, preaching and doctrinal teaching that also is included.

Although we may not be on an established mission field, it does not mean we are not missionaries. We are His Ambassadors wherever we are. Perhaps, the hardest mission field is amongst those who know us the best. We have been sent by our Saviour. Selfishness was never one of His characteristics; He healed the sick, raised the dead and preached the Gospel to the poor, who were despised by the scribes and Pharisees. How can we be like Him if we are selfish with the Gospel?

We live in an age of ease, convenience and speed. This has affected the work of the Church. Not only do people want short, pleasant sermons, they want instant conversions, little doctrine and even less discipline. First is the teaching or preaching of the Gospel. How can people believe if they do not know what they must believe to be

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

saved? A "faith-only" gospel will be for their hurt rather than for their benefit. Jesus next presents the need of baptism. The thought of repentance is included since His baptism is for the remission of sins. There would be little purpose in baptism if there were no repentance before, for the sins to be remitted. Further teaching is included in the Great Commission so the Christian may know and apply the ordinances and doctrines of the New Testament to his life. Without these teachings the Christian could not live a life pleasing to God. God's Holy Spirit is promised as a companion if this Gospel is taught and obeyed. To carry forth any gospel less than what Jesus comprehends in His commission is to take a false gospel and to fail as a missionary.

The Early Church made its mark upon the world in a very short period of time. In a few years Christians would be accused of "turning the world upside-down." The Peters and the Pauls went forth into a world even more hostile toward the Gospel than our own. They went everywhere preaching the Gospel. They did not preach a watered-down, diplomatic "faith-only" gospel. They often suffered for their stand but they kept on preaching. Although their denouncement of sin, idolatry, hypocrisy and loose-living was not popular and often led to exile, imprisonment, beatings or even death, the true Gospel went forth causing hearts and lives to be changed.

Our own forefathers were missionary-minded like the Apostles of the Early Church. They were willing to brave the dangers of crossing the Atlantic under harsh conditions to establish new homes in a foreign and often hostile environment. As the East became settled the call of the West reached the ears of our forefathers in the 18th and 19th centuries. As the Brethren went west they took along their faith. Often, although at first they were isolated, in a few years they would, by emigration and conversion, be able to establish new congregations. The ministering Brethren were willing to go forth to strengthen the members wherever they were. Elder John Kline of Virginia and Elder George Wolfe of Illinois and many others braved many dangers ministering to scattered members. Many congregations were organized and souls added to the Church because of the faithfulness and bravery of these missionaries.

Fifty years ago during the establishment of the Dunkard Brethren Church, the ministering Brethren gave of themselves freely. They went many places, spending much time away from home, preaching, organizing congregations and holding revivals. Because they were

missionaries, carrying forth the Gospel according to the Great Commission, we have the Dunkard Brethren Church today.

Are we as missionary-minded as those of past ages? Are we caring for our small congregations, for our isolated members, for the unsaved in general or for our organized mission work as we should? You are a missionary. Whom are you serving?

ARISE FROM THE DEAD!

Some Christians forget why they gather together on the Lord's Day. Many think it is just to worship. According to the New Testament, every gathering of believers should be a memorial of Christ's death, resurrection, and eminent return. The Lord's return will mark the end. There will be no more chance for the sinner; his doom will be sealed.

How many "church people" are pointing the way? In the book of Acts, the jailer asked Paul and Silas "What must I do to be saved? People everywhere are searching for a better way. They are confused about eternity. I'm willing to go out on a limb and say this, "If you are really a born-again believer, you'll get out of your rocking chairs and your flowery beds of ease and start the Gospel flowing. You'll call on the Lord to help you turn these poor lost souls from sin and to set their eyes on the Risen Christ of Calvary, who has made a way of salvation for all. If you have no desire to serve Him, then you need an experience with Him."

Remember, Churchmember, you cannot be a member just because your parents were. You must be born again. Mere church membership has nothing to do with salvation. If you haven't come to the Lord in humility, asked forgiveness, made your wrongs right and let the blood of Jesus cover your sinful nature, then you are just as much a child of hell as one who has never darkened a church door. If you have never repented, then you are still in sin. Sinners should not claim Christianity.

Let us also be led of the Spirit. Let us not do something just because someone else did it that way, but let us ask God and pray daily that the Blessed Holy Spirit will lead us. The Spirit will enliven dead church services, if we let Him. The Spirit will convict, if we let Him. The Spirit will lead us to the needs of God's Church. But we must let Him.

Brother Lynn H. Miller

THOUGHTS FROM PLEVNA

I am so thankful God made it possible for me to attend the Fiftieth Anniversary meeting of our beloved Dunkard Brethren Church. It was also my privilege to be at the meeting at Plevna in 1926 when the Church was organized.

The Sunday School was opened by Bro. Edwin St. John of the Pleasant Ridge Congregation. He used three scripture verses as the basis for his remarks, Psalms 122:1; Psalms 133:1 and Proverbs 22:28. Bro. D. P.Koch, one of the faithful organizers, often quoted Proverbs 22:28 and it is very fitting for the Church today.

Bro. Edwin gave some questions it might be well for us all to answer. Were you glad last Sunday when it was time to go to Church? Were you glad for prayer meeting night? Were you glad for today's services just because they were special?

Let us remember our promises made to God when we joined His Church. Bro. Edwin voiced his thankfulness that he belonged to a Church that keeps God's commands.

We see many changes in the world regarding God and the Church but our children need something stable to build their lives by.

Bro. Denver Rupp taught the Adult Sunday School Class. The importance of Esther being at the right place at the right time to deliver the Jews shows the wonderful wisdom of God in choosing His helpers and placing them in the spot where He can use them. This should be an inspiration to our young people to let God have His way in their lives even in small decisions.

The following ministers and Elders were present: Melvin Roesch, Warren Smith, Harley Flory, Milton Cook, Ray Reed, Harley Rush, Robert Carpenter, Walter Bird and Edward Johnson.

Opening Devotions: Bro. Warren Smith from Ephesians 4:1-16. There is need for love and unity in the Church now just as much as in the past.

Speaker: Bro. Melvin Roesch. II John. Satan is not sleeping on the job. II Thess. 3; Romans 2:2. When God told Gideon to take only the men that lapped water from their hand like a dog to make up his army to fight against the Midianites, it was only a small thing but disobedience would have meant losing the battle. Maybe our dress is a small thing but God's requests are not small.

The hymn chosen at the end of Bro. Roesch's sermon made the

afternoon service even more impressive, "All to Jesus I Surrender."

Closing Remarks: Bro. Ray Reed. II John 8; Hebrews 10:32-39. We can have a spiritual famine. Let us cherish the Church.

Sunday P.M.

The afternoon service was given over to short talks, by various ones on the organization of the Church.

Bro. Harley Flory opened the discussion by stating that twenty-five years ago he had been put in the ministry.

Bro. Milton Cook: The Church has not forgotten the organization fifty years ago neither has it forgotten why. The Mother Church was sick and drastic action was taken. Men knew what was right and stood four-square on their belief. May we leave the Church pure and untainted by the world as our heritage to our children.

Bro. David Skiles: The Church has a missionary outlook and that is why I chose the Dunkard Brethren Church. I am thankful for older brethren who paved the way.

Bro. Harve Throne: I am here because I worked with members who loved the Church.

Bro. Melvin Roesch: I wouldn't want to belong to a Church where there was no trouble. Satan has already captured that Church.

Bro. Edward Johnson: I have been in the Dunkard Brethren Church forty years and in the ministry for thirty. We all stumble and fall but let's get up and go on.

Bro. Warren Smith: Our Church rules are for the same purpose as a fence for a flock of sheep. It isn't the lambs that tear down the fence so lets keep the fence in repair so the lambs are safe.

Bro. Earl Brubaker: We, the people, have changed but God's Word never changes. Let's go forward and make God's Church stand out in the world.

A count of attendance by states was taken with the following numbers: Ohio 50, Pennsylvania 8, Michigan 1, Indiana 60, Iowa 7, Kansas 6, Colorado 3, California 3 and New Mexico 6.

So closed a wonderful day of Christian love and fellowship.

Sister Ruth Drake
R. 3 — Box 312
Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545

ALONE WITH GOD, OR JUST ALONE?

"Loneliness" is probably the most cruel word we know. No one likes to be constantly alone. Even Jesus felt the need of companionship, always with His Father, and often with His disciples and other friends. To feel that you are completely alone and that no one cares is a very hopeless feeling. Yet there times when we need to be alone, to think, to pray, to truly commune with God.

A hiker became lost in the mountains for awhile. He had no idea which way to go to his camp or where his companions were. After being rescued, he said that being completely alone with no way to contact anyone was almost ubearable. He was very near to giving-in to hopelessness; that could have meant death. In such despair, the power to reason turns to panic. At such times, if we have faith in God, we can turn to Him for help, and not be alone. Without Him, such a crisis is overwhelming.

You can be lonely in a crowd, especially if you have never learned to relate to or enjoy others. Yet, you can live alone and not mind it. The difference is in whether you can reach out to others and forget yourself, while you do things for and with them. The Bible says, "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself." Rom. 14:7. What we do affects others, for good or bad, whether it be in living or dying. We should live and die unto the Lord, in peace with God and man.

God created us with a deep need of His presence within. All human beings worship or esteem some thing or person to fill this need, if they don't know God. He also created us with a need for each other. Divine fellowship, family and Christian fellowship are all needed. But what if you don't have a close relative or friend? Do you still have God or are you just alone?

There are some things that you must do alone. No one else can do them for you. When you decide for or against Christ, you must do it alone. No one else can decide for you. You must be baptized for remission of your own sins; no one else can be baptized for you. No one can repent for you, or make resitution for the wrongs you have done. God will help you to follow Jesus, so that even though you are alone, in a sense, you are not forsaken.

Sometimes we need to be alone with God, so He can speak directly to our hearts without any interference. John was alone on the Isle of Patmos. His circumstances were not favorable, yet God used this time to speak to him in a special way. John was in the Spirit on the Lord's

Day; his mind and heart were in a condition to receive the vision and message, the Revelation of Jesus Christ. While he was alone with God, John wrote it down for us, as God commanded.

Saul of Tarsus received his first personal instruction from the Lord on the road to Damascus. See Acts 9. He wasn't alone then, but he must have felt alone before God, while he was blind those three days. He was chosen of God for a special work and God gave him special preparation for it. Saul, later called Paul, was alone with the Lord for three years, to receive complete spiritual instruction. Read Gal. 1:11-24. Because he was taught by the Lord, people glorified God when they heard Paul preach the faith, he had once tried to destroy.

At times, we may think we are alone, when we are not. Elijah thought he was the only believer left (I Kings 19:14), and even wanted to die. God said,"Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal . . .", so Elijah wasn't alone. Naomi felt alone and empty after the death of her husband and sons, but her daughter-in-law, Ruth, stayed with her. Her promise, ". . . whither thou goest, I will go . . ." was not an idle one, and she was a real comfort to Naomi. Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." John 14:18. Somehow, someway we will be helped, for with God, we are not alone.

"But thou,when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Matt. 6:6. We all know we need to pray. In order to give ourselves wholly to it, we need to shut the door against distractions. We can pray in the middle of confusion and God will hear, but the most comfort and strength comes when we are completely alone with God.

"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up." Ecc. 4:9-10. Many times we need someone to help us;God can help us when no one else can. Our friends cannot replace God, no matter how helpful they are. Jesus said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." Heb. 13:5b. God did forsake Jesus for a time, when He took our sins upon Himself on the Cross, so we would never have to be forsaken. If you are alone and lonely, please let Jesus into your heart. Then you can truly say "two are better than one, for with God, I am not alone."

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

PHILADELPHIA, Church of Revival and Evangelism

Philadelphia was about thirty miles southeast of Sardis. It was destroyed by the same earthquake in A.D. 17 that toppled Sardis. Tiberius Caesar rebuilt it also. Philadelphia was in the center of a great vineyard district and had a thriving business in wine. Because of this, Bacchus, the god of wine, had lots of devotees there. Drunkenness was a chronic social problem.

To this missionary minded church, Jesus presents Himself as the One who opens doors of evangelistic opportunity where and when He chooses. No man can open a door of witness or shut one except by the will of God. We should constantly remember this as we witness for Christ. When Jesus says that He possesses the key of David, it is a reminder of the Jews in Philadelphia that the Davidic Covenant, which promised eternal blessing through David's greatest Son,Christ, would be fulfilled in Jesus Himself. The starting statement that the Jews will come and worship at the feet of Christians probably means that the foes of Jesus will one day acknowledge the Christians' Lord as the true God. This, I am sure, might include the Jewish nation.

Jesus praises the Philadelphians for their work, which was obviously evangelism. He sets before them an open door for witness which no one can shut. Paul used this same symbol for evangelistic outreach when he said, "there is a wide open door for me to preach and teach here." (I Cor. 16) Christ had promised to open doors as these believers sought to reach the lost world with His message of salvation. This promise still holds true today! They were intelligent enough to realize that they had only "a little strength", and so they relied on Christ to open the way. If we choose to totally trust Him without our human maneuverings, He opens the way for us.

There is not a hint of rebuke to this church. It is important for us to see and rely on the characteristics that made this church so highly approved of by the Lord.

Jesus' admonition is a simple encouragement to hold fast to what the believers have learned and experienced in their walk with Him.

Most of this letter is composed of promises. Someone has counted over seven thousand promises in the Bible which God has made concerning His children and their welfare. Several important ones are related here. The first one is the "open door of opportunity" for

believers to reach out to the unbelieving world. One of the greatest promises given to any of the seven churches is in this letter. Jesus promises that these Philadelphian believers will not go through the time of testing which is coming upon the whole world. I think the scope of this promise goes far beyond the little Church represented here. This is because the promise speaks of a specific time or hour when the whole world will be in turmoil. A crisis of this kind has not yet appeared in the entire world at one time since this promise was given. Secondly, because the believers are promised they will be kept out of the hour of trial, not just safeguarded from it, it indicates being kept totally out of it. I believe that this is a wonderful promise that believers will be kept out of the hour of unleashed global judgments, thus a raptured Church.

The Philadelphia Church can be compared to today, as well as closely resembling the Church in the missionary era from 1750 to 1925. During this period millions who had not heard of Christ were evangelized. Men like Wesley, Whitefield, Moody, and Mack started working. Revivals occured in many places. Unfortunately, after World War I, the missionary zeal began to wane and people began to abandon their Christian heritage. I hope our Church will be constant in revival and evangelism until Christ comes to take His Church out of this world. "Let us Work, Watch, and Pray!"

Brother Leonard Wertz

THE MANGLED BIBLE

A clergyman was called by a church to become its minister. Having been strongly influenced by critical scholars who downgrade portions of the scriptures as myths, he, himself, doubted the actual facts of the whole Bible. About two years after his coming, the minister visited one of his members who was very sick. When he learned that the man had a terminal illness, he suggested, "Perhaps you would like me to read and pray with you." "Yes," replied the man as he took his Bible and handed it to the minister. When he opened it, the minister was somewhat shocked at what he saw. Many of the pages were torn away, some of the chapters were missing, and a number of verses were actually cut out! It was a terrible, mangled volume. Reluctantly the minister asked, "Haven't you got a better Bible than this?" The dying man replied, "When you came to our church, I believed the entire Book. But as soon as you told us that certain sections were not true, I removed them. When you said that some stories were probably fiction and referred to them as fables, I tore them out. I think if I had another year under your

teaching, I would have nothing but two covers left!"

This story makes me wonder from time to time if people of like faith don't have pages torn out of God's precious Word. The way the world is becoming, and the church is slipping in some points, such as modesty, pride, gossiping, hatefulness and disobedience to each other, should make us want to cling more and more to our Bible. We hear less and less sermons from the pulpit on these subjects. We need to hear more "fire and brimstone" messages!

Many church people do not dress the same but still we read the same Bible; how can it be? A lot of this we can pin down to pride in our hearts.

Many have joined the church with the right hand of fellowship and baptism, but they still wear the same fashion in dress. The only change we see is: the prayerveil is put-on by the women and, maybe, the plain coat is worn by the men. Sure, we must be changed on the inside first, then we will shine on the outside, but it seems like the inside never shines through.

People are not willing to give up, put away the old man and put on the new man. Ephesians 4:22-24 tells us, "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness."

Parents and children, alike, are being hateful to each other. A few days ago, as I was sitting in the truck waiting for my husband, I saw a young woman with two children in the car with her. One child managed to climb up into the front seat, while the mother got out to make a phone call. Upon returning, the mother grabbed the little child and threw him in the back seat. How my heart bled for that little one, which did no harm. He cried from not having any love from his mother. No wonder the world is in the condition it is; no one cares for or trains the little children aright. There too are disobedient parents and children. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6. "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Ephesians 6:1.

What has happened to our Bible? Is it still our Blessed Book, the whole Word of God, or is our Bible mangled? The Bible says, ". . . things will wax worse and worse." I believe that many church people will be deceived in the last days of time. Jesus said, "When I come will I find faith on the earth?" Hebrews 12:14, "Follow peace with all men, and

holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord. Holiness can make you clean. Let's get our hearts right with God and be a better and a stronger church member. "The Christian way is a good and a happy way."

It behooves us each day to read and study from page to page what and how Christ taught His disciples and us, as well, to live a Christian life. Be not as an heathen man who is disobedient to the Lord's teachings.

May the Lord help us to be careful and not mangle our Bible through unbelief.

Sister Shirley Frick
1577 St. Rt. 121
New Madison, Ohio 45346

CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE ROD OF AARON

Numbers 16:41-50; 17:1-13

Why do people continue to resist the Lord? God had done so much for Israel in many wonderful ways. When they obeyed the Lord they were blessed but when they rebelled against Him they were punished. After Korah, Dathan and Abiram and their followers had been destroyed for rebelling against Moses and Aaron, the congregation murmured again, saying "Ye have killed the people of the Lord." How could they say this, after Moses had time and again interceded and pleaded with God to spare the lives of the people? Couldn't the people ever understand that God meant what He said? This was more than God could permit. Israel had disobeyed God time and again; now God seemed determined to destroy them.

The Lord said to Moses, "Get you up from among the congregation, that I may consume them." What do you think Moses and Aaron did? Instead of running away from the congregation, they fell on their faces to implore God to be merciful. Then Moses realized an awful thing had taken place. People were beginning to fall over dead. There was a plague, or a disease, among them and it was spreading like wildfire. Moses realized that if something were not done, all Israel would soon be dead. He called to Aaron and told him to take a censer and put fire from off the altar, in it with incense, and to go quickly and make an atonement for the congregation. Aaron did so, standing between the

dead and the living, and the plague stopped. The number who died with the plague was fourteen thousand seven hundred.

The Lord wanted to make sure that the people understood that Aaron was their high priest. He told Moses to take twelve rods, one from each tribe, and write every man's name upon his rod. Aaron's name was written on the rod from the tribe of Levi. Then the rods were put in the tabernacle before the Lord. The man, whose rod budded, was to be God's choice for the office of high priest. The next day Moses went into the tabernacle and brought out all the rods from before the Lord. What do you think had happened to Aaron's rod? It had budded and it brought forth blossoms and, not only that, but it yielded almonds! Aaron's rod was placed in the ark for a testimony of Aaron's priesthood to the children of Israel.

Do we believe that God's power is unlimited? There is nothing impossible with God. He has even made it possible for us to have eternal life. Believing in Jesus, who died on Calvary for our sins, is our part. God's unlimited love was shown when He gave His only begotten Son to die for us.

Brother Rudy Cover

OBITUARIES

BESSIE SHAFFER

Bessie Pearl Shaffer of R. 4, Greencastle, Pennsylvania, was born August 23, 1899 at Eglon, West Virginia, a daughter of the late Alemons and Mary (Beddinger) Fike. She died April 14, 1976, after a long illness at the age of 76 years.

Sister Shaffer was a member of the Waynesboro Dunkard Brethren Church.

Sister Shaffer is survived by her husband, Brother Dewey Shaffer, three daughters; Mrs. Retha Shaffer, Akron, Ohio; Mrs. Elsie Rimer, Kansas; Mrs. Beulah Bert, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania; two sons; Bro. Foster Shaffer, Manheim, Pennsylvania; Elder Frank Shaffer, Greencastle, Pennsylvania. Also surviving are seventeen grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, April 17 in the Waynesboro Dunkard Brethren Church with Elder Jacob Ness and Elder Howard Surbey officiating.

Burial in the Upton Church of the Brethren Cemetery.

NORMAN KING

Norman A. King of R. 4, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania was born December 10, 1889 at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, a son of the late Charles W. and Nora (Little) King. He died April 14, 1976 in the Waynesboro Hospital at the age of 86 years, after he was admitted suffering from a heart attack.

Brother King affiliated with the Church of the Brethren in early life. He later affiliated with the Waynesboro Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church shortly after the beginning of this congregation. He served in the capacity of Deacon for many years in the Church.

Brother King is survived by his widow, Sister Ruth C. King, and a brother, Walter King of R. 3, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. A number of nieces and nephews also survive.

Brother King was a self-employed carpenter all his life.

Funeral services were conducted Friday, April 16, in the Waynesboro Dunkard Brethren Church, with Elder James Kegerreis and Elder Jacob Ness officiating. Burial in Price's Church of the Brethren Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

McCLAVE, COLORADO

The Lord willing, the McClave, Colorado Conagregation is planning Revival Meetings, August 22 through August 29. Elder Hayes Reed of Modesto, California will be our evangelist.

There will be all-day services, the 28th and 29th. Lovefeast service Saturday evening the 28th at eight o'clock.

Please pray for these meetings, and all who can, come and enjoy them with us.

Sister Aurelia Wertz, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans two weeks of Revival Meetings starting August 29 and ending September 12. Elder Joseph E. Flora of Adel, Iowa will be the evangelist.

There will be services starting at 10:00 a.m. on September 11, with our Lovefeast at 7:00 p.m.

Our Harvest Meeting will be September 26.

We invite all who can, to come and enjoy these services with us.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation enjoyed another Lovefeast service on May 2, 1976. We are thankful for the goodly number of visitors from other congregations who came and worshiped with us. Ministers with us through out the day were: Elder David Ebling, Elder Howard Surbey, Elder Jacob Ness, Elder Joshua Rice, Bro. Emmert Shelly, Bro. David Kegerreis, Bro. Eldon Mallow and Bro. Virgil Leatherman.

In the evening services forty-six surrounded the tables with Elder Joshua Rice officiating.

Sister Wilma Eberly, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5—"Through He Slay Me, Yet Will I Trust Him." Job (12) 13:1-28.

Sept. 12—"If A Man Die, Shall He Live Again?" Job 14:1-22.

Sept. 19—"Miserable Comforters Are Ye All." Job (15) 16:1-22 (17).

Sept. 26—"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth." Job (18) 19:1-29.

QUESTIONS:

(1) Was Job convinced that his ways were right before God? Job 13:18.

(2) Did Job believe in a resurrection? Job 14:14-15.

(3) What was the reason that Job's best friends failed to comfort him? Job 2:4-6.

(4) If the situation had been reversed and Job's friends were in his place, would Job have criticized his friends as they did him? Job 16:4-5.

(5) Was Job's desire, that his words be printed in a book,ever fulfilled.

Idols and ideals sound very much alike; but the one will debase you while the other will uplift you.

The quality of one's greatness depends upon what one does with that which is least.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1976
COMFORT

Memory Verse, Psalms 23:4
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Wed. 1—Ruth 2:1-17
Thur. 2—II Samuel 14:1-20
Fri. 3—II Samuel 19:1-23
Sat. 4—I Chronicles 19:1-19

Memory Verse, Ps. 71:20 & 21
Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.

Sun. 5—II Chronicles 30:1-27
Mon. 6—II Chronicles 32:1-23
Tues. 7—Job 2:1-13
Wed. 8—Job 6:1-30
Thur. 9—Job 7:1-21
Fri. 10—Job 9:1-35
Sat. 11—Job 10:1-22

Memory Verse, Ps. 119:49 & 50
Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

Sun. 12—Job 16:1-22
Mon. 13—Job 21:1-34
Tues. 14—Job 29:1-25
Wed. 15—Job 42:1-17
Thur. 16—Psalms 23:1-6
Fri. 17—Psalms 69:1-36
Sat. 18—Psalms 71:1-24

Memory Verse, Psalms 119:76
Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

Sun. 19—Psalms 86:1-17
Mon. 20—Psalms 94:1-23
Tues. 21—Psalms 119:41-64
Wed. 22—Psalms 119:65-88
Thur. 23—Ecclesiastes 4:1-16
Fri. 24—Isaiah 12:1-6
Sat. 25—Isaiah 40:1-31

Memory Verse, Isaiah 12:1
And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me,thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

Sun. 26—Isaiah 49:1-26
Mon. 27—Isaiah 51:1-23
Tues. 28—Isaiah 52:1-15
Wed. 29—Isaiah 54:1-17
Thur. 30—Isaiah 57:1-21

Memory Verse, Isaiah 49:13
Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.

Isaiah 52:9
Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV SEPTEMBER 1, 1976 NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

REAL SUCCESS

It is good to succeed,
  But it's better by far
To show by the deed
  Just the man that you are.

Though the victory's sweet
  When the battle is done,
Are you proud to repeat
  How your triumph was won?

Do you win in a way
  That is free from all shame?
What do other men say
  As they mention your name?

Did you openly fight?
  Were you brave enough there
Not to turn from the light
  In your hour of despair?

HOME CANNING

The home canning season is about over for another year. Canning requires alot of hard work. When finished, the jars of fruit and vegetables make a beautiful sight on the shelves of the fruit room or the cellar. Those full jars should awaken thoughts of thanksgiving for the fruit and vegetables grown through God's grace in the fertile ground.

There are various methods of canning. The one to be used depends upon the particular item being canned and the prejudice of the one doing the canning. A person might wonder whether it is worth all the hard work or not, especially while doing the canning during the hot summer! But when the approaching winter comes to mind, the hard work seems very worthwhile. Looking forward to canned fruit and vegetables when none are available makes the work bearable. Nutritionally and economically, the home canner will be rewarded in the future.

The arduous labor of canning with its many necessary details, reminds us of our Christian life. There are struggles, troubles and tears here in this life, which demand our greatest efforts so we can enjoy a future reward. The reward of the Christian is far greater than the fruit and vegetables that taste so good in the off-season. His reward is an eternal, Heavenly Home. Diligence is needed in either undertaking. The home canner has to keep at the job until enough has been prepared to last the long winter months. Peter advises the Christian "... giving all diligence ..." to collect and use the fruits of the Spirit. Care has to be used by both. The canner must follow exacting instructions to be sure the canned food is truly nutritious and safe. The Christian has been given a full set of instructions so he can journey toward

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

Heaven in the manner that pleases God.

There are many admonitions in the New Testament concerning our continuing diligence in pursuit of a life pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Jesus warned, "no man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God." The Christian life is not one decision, one dedication or one prayer. It is a lifetime of making many decisions, many dedications and many prayers of thanksgiving as well as of confession. The farmer plowing his field cannot do an acceptable job if he looks back, longing for home comforts. He will plow a crooked furrow and run into the fence. The Christian looking back to the pleasures that were once enjoyed in the world will plow a "crooked furrow" having little influence because of his meanderings from one side to the other instead of plowing a straight and narrow furrow. If he becomes too engrossed with the things of the world he may run into the fence tearing down the protecting hedge planted by God and the Church. The canner must stay at the business of putting up the food if it is to be done. There is no time for the pleasures others are following; there is work to be done.

The Apostle Paul speaks of sowing and reaping to illustrate the need of diligence in our Christian life, "... for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption: but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." The crops of the field produce the same grain that was first sown. The life of man will produce the fruit outwardly that corresponds to the seed within the heart. The heart given over to the desires of the flesh will produce a fleshly life, at home only in the world. The spiritually alive heart will produce spiritual fruit. Only the spiritual life will prove acceptable unto God. The canner will choose only good fruit or vegetables to can, considering the amount of work and expense involved, it dare not be wasted on rotten food. God wants our lives to be filled with good fruit not the rotten fruit that Satan palms off as acceptable.

When canning our fruit and vegetables we should be mindful of the multitude of blessing shared with us by God. Not only should we put up food for our future use but also for others who are unable to can their own. The good news of the Gospel is not for our own, exclusive use, but is to be shared so others may enjoy the spiritual bounties of God.

Whether you can at home or not, you are not able to escape the fact that you need to be preparing for a future home. You may be either wise or foolish. You can labor, here and now, for a future reward or you can take it easy, here, and reap an empty eternity.

SO YOU DON'T NEED GOD ANYMORE

So you think you don't need God anymore? You have tried to do things His way but you never seem to enjoy it like you have been told you would. You aren't happy, so you've decided to call it quits and not try anymore. At this point, you may think you don't need God anymore, but you don't need Him any less either!

You say you and religion never did get along very well? If religion is all you've had, it's no wonder you can't get along with it. It's no wonder you don't want it anymore. How about trying Christ and Christianity for a change? Christ can make you come alive. He can give you peace and joy, deep inside. Religion only means you have something to do, a routine to follow, but there's no life in it.

"It gets tiresome to get up every Sunday and go to church. There never seems to be a day to sleep late, or to get rested up from the week's mad rush. Isn't it better to sleep late anyhow than to go to church and sleep during the service? Besides, it cramps my style, if I have to study a lesson and go to bed on time Saturday evening so I can teach others Sunday morning. I would rather be free to have a good time." Is this how YOU feel?

Satan has you whipped, doesn't he? He has defeated you repeatedly and taken away your joy in the Lord, so you've decided to give up. Are you going to give in and let him defeat you unchallenged? I John 4:4b says "... Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." Jesus truly is greater than Satan, the one in the world. If you have Jesus within you, Satan can't defeat you in anything, unless you permit him to. No matter what the obstacle or problem, with Christ, the victory can be yours. Without Christ, the victory is already Satan's.

It is so easy to get your eyes on the problem or the responsibility, then you can't see Christ. The obstacle won't seem so large if you get your eyes on Christ instead, for then you can see His power to overcome it. If a responsibility seems too great for you to handle, just look to Christ and He will give you strength for the task. He will also bless you in the work because you have tried to please Him in it.

Without Christ, almost anything can become an overwhelming burden. Jesus said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." John 15:5. To be able to " . do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" as Paul said, you must abide in Christ, and look to Him for the victory and the blessing. If you are cut off from Christ, like a branch cut from a tree, you will shrivel up and die.

You may think life will go better if you just leave God out. You expect to be more contented, but will you be? What can you find to satisfy you, after

you've shoved Christ out of your heart and life? Who will help you when troubles come? (They will; Satan will see to that!) You can get involved in the rush of life so that you can forget your troubled heart, part of the time. But you can't get away from it all the time. Then where is the peace you were going to have -- without God?

What happens to your family? If you give up on serving the Lord and stop going to worship services, will your family quit too? Your decision to just give up will affect their salvation also. You are, in effect, deciding for them that they don't need God either. Whether you are a parent or a teenager, you are an example to others in your family and to your friends. If you turn your back on God, you will be leading them away from God. You will discourage those who know you and think you are happy in serving the Lord.

Your life doesn't need to be one of defeat. Perhaps no one ever told you that you can have victory over every trial, large or small. The victory which overcomes is our faith in Christ. He has already overcome the world (John 16:33), and can give you strength to overcome it also. Where there is victory, there is rejoicing and peace and contentment. The blessing you receive makes the effort seem worthwhile.

Satan tries in every way to destroy our faith in Christ and to keep us from hearing His Word, which increases our faith. "so then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Rom. 10:17. When you see a promise in God's word, Satan will tell you that it's not for you, but if you claim the promise, Satan has lost. If he succeeds in discouraging you, he has won the battle. It pays to resist the Devil, for he will flee when you claim the promises and believe Christ will give you the victory.

You do need God in your life. You will not have real peace without Him. Seek to please God and He will give you His peace and guide you in the Christian way. Your faithfulness will be rewarded here and in eternity. "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:12. Don't push God aside and look for something else. Hold on in faith until the final blessing is yours.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

SOUTH FULTON

"STEADFASTNESS" - Galations 3:1-29

A Sermon by Bro. W. S. Reed

Be ye unmovable. Anchored in the Rock of the Savior.

The great Apostle Paul had a great love for the children who walked in truth. It grieved his heart when they walked contrary to the Gospel they

were first taught. The Galatians had been bewitched, so they wavered from the truth.

What is the condition of one bewitched? The mind is bewildered and unbalanced. Paul asks, "Who hath bewitched you that ye obey not the truth? And why are ye drawn to and fro by every wind of doctrine? Christ bought salvation for you, and now, who are you believing?" Christ established and taught the truth.

Paul says, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel." These Galatians thought they should obey the old law. But Paul tells them that the old law is of no more effect; it is now the law of Grace. Now, God would justify the heathen through faith.

God promised the seed of Abraham, "... in thee shall all nations be blessed." If people had obeyed God there would have been no need for the law. Because they fell from the promise that was given to Abraham, the law was given as a schoolmaster to bring the people to Christ. Jesus came to fulfill that promise. Paul now marvels that the Galatians are so soon fallen away from those teachings.

Jesus came into the world to establish a foundation for His Church. No one can have salvation except through that Church and Christ. Today many people are tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Often they hear of a new belief and say, "we have found a new light —" proof that they are only fooling themselves.

When anyone makes a decision to be a child of God, he is like the Church of Berea — more noble than those in Thessalonica. They receive the word with all readiness of mind, and search the scriptures daily to see if these things be so. They which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. The just shall live by faith.

Moses was a great phophet and leader. All the prophets in the Old Testament point to the coming of Christ, who brought salvation to man. It was needful and necessary for Christ to come to wash the sins of the world away. There is no other plan or hope other than Christ shedding His blood and dying for every individual in the world. God will not allow those He created to leave the world without the opportunity to hear of this salvation through Christ's blood. None of us can do this, only God and Christ can apply the blood that cleanses the stain of sin.

Paul, while teaching the Galatians, is also teaching us. He wants the Galatians to go back to their first love, "that the blessings of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." I like to meditate on God's promise to Abraham that no man can disannul.

Hebrews 11 gives us the account of the faith of many and their great accomplishments through that faith. Namely, Abel, Enoch and Noah. Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Moses, David and Samuel and many women. Many others "who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises ... out of weakness were made strong, ... others had cruel mockings, bonds and imprisonments ... of whom the world was not worthy." "By faith Abraham when he was tried offered up Isaac." By faith, he went out to a far country, obeying, not knowing whither he went. "By faith he sojourned ... with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise, for he looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God." That same city is for you and me and all who believe God and obey Him.

"For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise." Galatians 3:21, "Is the law then against the promise of God? God forbid." The law cannot give life. If it had life or could give life then there would have been no need for Christ to come to bring light and salvation. The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ but now we are no longer under a schoolmaster. We now have the law of Grace.

I trust we are more highly inspired to study and understand the Grace of Christ.

Sister Elta K. Blythe
822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois 61455

FAITHFUL BRETHREN IN THE HOLY PLACE

Colossians 1:9. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding."

Although many hundreds of miles apart, faithful brethren in Paul's prison and in Colossae were uniting in prayer to God. Jesus was fulfilling His promise, Matt. 18:20, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." His blessed presence makes the humblest meeting place, holy and fit for the praises and prayers of His people.

A rich revival of faith, of hope, and of love, blessed the hearers of these inspired words. Those words that flowed from Paul's pen carried their spiritual freight of truth and blessing to faithful hearts in an ever widening circle through the long centuries.

As noted before, Paul rejoiced in praising God, Col. 1:3-5, for their faith, their love and the "... hope laid up for you in Heaven." Now he prays for their "FILLING."

The prayer preceded the letter which no doubt took weeks or even

months to deliver. As Paul, Timothy and Epaphras prayed in Rome, sustaining grace and peace from God descended on the faithful in Colossae.

The prayer was with great "Desire". Col. 4:12, "Epaphras ... always laboring fervantly for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God." Jesus spoke of "Desire" in prayer. "Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Mark 11:24. The first desire here is for the inward filling that only God can bestow.

There is the sound of victory in this prayer. There is no doubt or despair, for it is clearly in line with God's Will and Word. This Church at Colossae was a vine of God's planting. He is ever able to guard and care for His own. The Apostle rejoiced for having a part in caring for this Church in its new danger.

The verbs in this prayer, Col. 1:9-14, are a challenge to our intelligence. As the Gnostic deceivers were endeavoring to fill the minds of the brethren with their false teaching, Paul and his brethren were uniting in prayer for God to fill those same minds with "... the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding." The darkness of heresy was to be dispelled by the Son of Righteousness, even Christ's power among them. The inspired, written words of Paul's letter that followed were to guide the Church.

One of the first lessons in self-control is in the hunger and thirst of the soul-mind. The flesh hungers for the gratification of its lusts and pride. Unhappily in our great land, huge fortunes are made in pandering to the flesh. Unless on our guard, we can easily FILL our minds with the sight and sound of wicked sin, while relaxing in a favorite, easy chair at home. Air programs and daily newspapers aim at the mind, as a target to FILL and daily REFILL it with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. This says the Apostle John, "... is not of the Father, but is of the world." I John 2:16. Are we on guard? Which do we seek first in the morning? The newspaper and fleshly programs; or God and His Word? The responsibility of choice lies on us.

Christ, in His Sermon on the Mount, started with blessings. These are to condition the mind for what is to follow. We do well to study them closely. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled." Jesus was righteous and holy, free from sin, unblamable before God. In every thing He stood wholly justified before God. Many souls have hungered and thirsted for His righteousness and have known of His own marvelous and gracious fillings. The Colossian brethren were at this point. With heretical teachers challenging the very foundation of their faith, their souls hungered for a new filling of Spirit discernment and power.

The filling from the world today comes to us with no threatening persecution. Do we, perhaps, often worry about what our children are learning in school, we well may, while continuing to fill our minds with the "husks" of the unconverted.

No doubt many a minister and evangelist has wept before the Lord, when he realized his polite listeners were filling their minds from another and an unholy source. Unholy and wicked periodicals, books and programs besiege the minds of Christians from the youngest to the oldest. Of ourselves, we are completely unable to withstand this flood, this avalanche of wickedness. Have we checked our own heart-hunger lately? Do we feel our great need of His Divine filling? It takes an humble mind to ask for HIS help. Jesus had us in mind when He said, Matt. 7:7-11, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" John 16:24, "... ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

Loving you in Him,
James D. Cover
1225 East Morris, Modesto, Calif. 95350

CHILDREN'S PAGE

MOSES MAKES A MISTAKE

Numbers 20:1-13

Do you ever have any troubles? I'm sure you do; everybody does, even children. Moses had a great many. How he put up with all the complaining of the children of Israel, is more than I know. Moses trusted God, but the children of Israel didn't seem to understand that it was God who was caring for them. They had doubted God's power to bring them into the Promised Land. Because of their unbelief, God told them they would have to stay in the wilderness a year for each day that the spies had searched out the land. Num. 14:34. Now it was the first month of the fortieth year since they had left Egypt and they were getting close to the land of Canaan.

Miriam was Moses' sister. She died in the desert of Zin. She was older than Moses and is thought to have been one hundred and thirty years old when she died. She was the one who watched the little boat that her mother had made for baby Moses when Pharaoh had commanded that all the Hebrew baby boys should be killed. I'm sure that Moses had a great love for

his sister and it saddened him when she died.

This was only one of the things Moses had to bear. He was the leader of God's people and was continually having trouble with them. The desert of Zin was dry. Just as soon as they ran out of water, they said to Moses. "We wish we had died when the Lord destroyed our brethren. Why have you brought us into this wilderness that we and our cattle should die there?" They never seemed to learn that Moses was only doing what God told him. God was leading them; why should they blame Moses? And they said, "Why have you made us to come up out of Egypt into this evil place? It is no place to plant seeds, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates — and there isn't even any water to drink."

Moses was a patient man, but even the best of us loses his patience at times. Moses and Aaron went unto the Lord and fell on their faces before the door of the tabernacle. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "Take thy rod and gather the people and speak unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth water. Thou shalt bring forth water out of the rock for the people and their beasts to drink."

Moses took his rod; Moses and Aaron gathered the people. He said, "Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?" Moses was angry and forgot that God said to speak to the rock. Instead he struck it twice with his rod. The water came out of the rock abundantly; there was plenty for everyone and their beasts too. Because Moses and Aaron failed to do exactly what God said, God did not allow them to enter the promised land.

It doesn't pay to get angry. Anger only confuses us and makes us forget what God has told us. The Apostle Paul says to be patient toward all men. Jesus said, "In your patience possess ye your souls."

Brother Rudy Cover

THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF GOD

Let us stop our work, sit down and take up our Bible to search for some of these gifts. I am sure that many will find more than I have here. Now, let me ask a question. How many SPIRITUAL gifts can you list without looking them up in the Book?

I will briefly touch on the most important ones. There is so much that could be said on each one that I think of, but feel that it is better to keep it short and let each study and find more and others. Maybe someone will send me a more complete list.

The first Spiritual gift, I think of, is our Lord and Savior. John 3:16 states that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. To me, this

is the most wonderful gift that could be given. The thought, here, I would like to bring to mind is that God GAVE His Son. What are we giving Him? The next gift, that comes to mind, is God's wonderful GIFT of GRACE. Without this gift there wouldn't be much need to go into the others. The gift of grace brings us to the third gift, which is a very important one. It is wisdom. Through it, if applied as it should be, we will have no trouble coming to the gift number four. This gift of repentance is a very wonderful gift, as it lets us leave this life of sin. Also through it we get gift five which is that of faith. This gift of faith through repentance gives us a new heart which is the sixth gift. When applied it leads to the cleansing of the body temple, where the seventh gift will abide. This gift, the Holy Spirit, will lead us in the steps of gift number one. This in turn brings about gift eight which is peace. As we use this gift of peace we find that we are bringing forth fruit, showing our works for the Lord. This takes us on to gift nine, but let us not be slack in any of the other gifts or we will not have gift nine — we will not be able to enter into His Rest. Turning to I Peter 5:10, we find that the God of all Grace hath called us unto His eternal Glory, by Christ Jesus, which is gift ten.

If we are true and faithful to the first ten gifts that our gracious God has given us, He will also give us gift eleven. This will be so wonderful, the mind cannot comprehend the largeness of it; this is Eternal Life, where we can serve our Maker and Redeemer, throughout the ceaseless ages of eternity.

May the love of God, the Father, abide with all who are faithful, is my prayer.

Brother Orvis Smith
Quinter, Kansas 67752

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

LAODICEA: A Look At the Church Today!

Laodicea was an extremely wealthy banking center about forty miles east of Ephesus. It had a medical school which was noted for an healing eye ointment. The city was very pleasure conscious, with a huge race track and three lavish theatres, one of them was half-as-large as a football field.

To this Church of compromise and apostasy, Jesus first reveals Himself as the AMEN, which means, "I Believe" and is usually spoken in response to some truth or promise of God. This affirmation of faith was sadly lacking in this church, so Jesus emphasizes His own belief in the Father. As the Faithful and True witness of God's truth, Jesus wanted these indifferent Church members to, also, look to Him in a different light and to be true to their beliefs. They must have been holding Him in rather low esteem.

Jesus uses a name for Himself here that appears nowhere else in the scripture, "the beginning of the Creation of God." This Church had become so smug with all its wordly possessions that it had forgotten its reason for existance: to proclaim the message of God. Has our attitude toward missionary outreach taken this turn today?

There was not one word of commendation for this compromising, ingrown, unbelieving Church. It seems the Church was doing its own thing, oblivious to the fact that Christ had no part in their actions.

Most of this letter is divine denunciation. The Laodiceans were rebuked for being neither fervent nor apathetic. They had been neutralized by adopting worldly views. They were rebuked for their focus on material wealth as the criterion for success. They had accumulated properties and many other things, thinking they were doing God's will. Jesus' estimation of their true condition was much different than theirs, when He said, "You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked!"

Christ's exhortation is aimed more at individuals than at the Church as a whole. Apparently the Church was almost past reforming. Jesus exhorts them to "buy from Him gold that's been tried in the fire of testing!" When fire is put to gold, it refines it so the impurities can be skimmed off.

The Lord urges them to "buy white raiment to cover their spiritual nakedness ...." In other words, they were to clothe themselves or surround themselves with Jesus Christ: Purity and Love. Further, they were to "anoint their eyes with salve so they can see." These people were most familiar with the healing aspects of eye salve since it was produced in their own city. Jesus used this as a symbol of healing their spiritually, blind hearts. Christ was standing at the door, just waiting to be asked into their hearts and lives. This is as true today as it was for the Laodiceans. He is knocking! Will we open the door of our hearts to Him?

Jesus speaks again about the glory in store for the overcomers in this Church. He says they will, one day, sit on His throne with Him and rule with Him throughout Eternity. Can we even visualize such a great reward?

Laodicea seems to be a perfect example of what is going on in the Churches of today. We see compromise and apostasy! Leading scholars and critics have a lukewarm relationship with Christ and many even deny, outright, the supernatural aspects of Biblical faith. They want to make our Saviour into the mere figure of a man. The Churches have been sucked into what might be called scientific and philosophical rationalism.

May God help us to keep ourselves and our Church from this kind of modern and compromising thought. Let us earnestly pray for strength and guidance in this time that reflects the close approach of our Lord and Saviour's return for His followers.

Brother Leonard Wertz

A GLORIOUS CHURCH

Do you hear the people thronging up the steps of Light, with garments shining, pure and white? Here, you see by their faces, they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. It seems like one can hear the singing, as their anthems fill the sky. This glorious Church has no spot or wrinkle. They have a Friend like Jesus to guide them all the way. When this life is over and our work here on earth is done, He will be waiting to greet us on the Heavenly shore. We never need fear the cloud of sorrow, for He is always near to comfort and cheer.

Those of you out there in sin, cannot I plead with you to step inside and have your sins all washed away in the stream that we see flowing from Calvary? We know He died to make us free. Can't you hear Him calling? Weary heart, He is calling you. Come to me and rest, my yolk is easy and my burden light. Does your path grow rugged? Are your burdens hard to bear? His way is always best, so leave the unknown future in the Master's hands, for He always understands. We must open our heart to the Lord so He can have His way in our lives. You cannot serve two masters.

Pray for His guidance, as prayer is the key to the great, pearly gates. No money can buy your peace with the Lord. We must love everybody, rich and poor, for love is a key to the Heavenly Mansions of God. If you are a member of the beloved Church, which Christ has set up, your robe will be spotless, clean and righteous before the world. The world can see that Jesus dwells within. Then in that great, triumphant morn, we will be changed to life immortal, in the twinkling of an eye and we will meet our Blessed Lord in the sky. Just stop for a moment and think what a happy day that will be. When our Lord descends in Glory, all our work here on earth will have been finished. We will meet our loved ones.

Dear ones, let me plead with you. There is still room for you at the cross of Calvary. Jesus is still waiting to open the gate and let you in, before it is too late. His blood flows from Calvary. Remember, dear ones, trials may press us and burdens distress us, but He has promised to never leave us alone. His promises are true. He is your best friend; He even is closer than a brother. Listen now, as He calls. His invitation is going out. What are you going to do about it? Time is swiftly passing by and will soon be gone. Whosoever will, may come. Are you ready to say, "Lord, I give my life unto thee, guide my feet, hold my hand, and lead me to that place You prepared for all the faithful"?

Sister E. M. Alltus
Modesto, California 95350

NEWS ITEMS

The Dunkard Brethren of the Englewood, Ohio Congregation had a special meeting on July 25, 1976 in honor of Bro. Wilfred C. Hoblit's one hundredth birthday, which was on July 17. It was very nice of all of them as

they are holding a Revival Meeting at Englewood at the present time. As I cannot attend Church anymore I enjoyed meeting so many on this occasion.

Brother Wilfred C. Hoblet
750 Chestnut St. G-511
Greenville, Ohio 45331

NORTHERN LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

The North Lancaster County Congregation went into their new location on Sunday, July 25th. Our Elder, Jame Kegerreis preached on Sunday morning. Two were received into the Church and baptized in the afternoon.

The Lord willing, we plan to have a two weeks revival starting Sept. 12th with Bro. Virgil Leatherman of Littlestown, Pennsylvania as the evangelist. Dedication Services are planned on Sept. 19 in the afternoon. There will be a basket lunch at noon at the church. The speaker will be Bro. Edward Johnson.

A hearty invitation is extended to all to attend these meetings.

Location of Church: coming from the south on Route 501, turn right at the fourth stoplight in Lititz, when coming from the north turn left at the first stoplight, which is East Lincoln Street. Go to first cross road, turn right, go to second cross road, turn right to brick Church on the right.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

OBITUARIES

DERRICK LONG

Derrick Lynn Long, son of Bro. and Sis. Harold Long was stillborn, June 6, 1976 at the Lancaster General Hospital.

In addition to the parents, he is survived by grandparents, Bro. and Sis. D. Raymond Weidman, Ephrata, Pennsylvania and Bro. and Sis. Homer K. Long, Manheim, Pennsylvania; Great-grandmother, Sis. Eva Weidman and Great-grandfathers Clinton Rollman and Marvin Wissler.

Graveside services were conducted by Elder James Kegerreis at Hess's Cemetery, east of Lititz.

GAIL SNYDER

Gail Snyder, daughter of Bro. and Sis. Jack Snyder was stillborn May 22, 1976 at Ephrata Community Hospital.

Surviving in addition to her parents are two sisters and two brothers, Bonita Marie, Keith Lynn, Karla Louise, and Curtis Lee, all at home; maternal grandmother, Sis. Emma Wise, Paradise, Pennsylvania and paternal grandparents, Bro. and Sis. Ted Snyder, Bernville, Pennsylvania.

Graveside services were conducted by Elder James Kegerreis at Hess's Cemetery, east of Lititz.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all the Brethren and Sisters for the prayers, cards, gifts and other acts of kindness shown to us during our recent bereavement. It was greatly appreciated and may God bless you all for it.

Brother and Sister Jack Snyder
and family

"PLEASE DADDY, LET'S GO"

A little girl with shining eyes,
Her upturned face aglow.
Said, "Daddy, it's almost time
For Sunday School, you know;
Let's go and hear of Jesus' love
Of how He died for all,
To take them to His home above
Who on His name will call!"
"Oh, No," said Daddy, "Not today.
I've worked hard all the week;
And I must have one day of rest,
I'm going to the creek,
For there I can relax and rest,
And fishing's fine they say;
So run along, don't bother me,
We'll go another day."
Months and years have passed away,
But Daddy hears the plea no more;
"Let's go to Sunday School . . ."
Those childish days are o'er.
And now that Daddy's growing old,
And life is almost through,
He finds some time to go to church,
But what does daughter do?
She says, "Oh, Daddy, not today —
Was out almost all night;
I've got to get a little sleep;
Besides I look a fright."
Then Daddy lifts a trembling hand
To brush away the tears;
Again he hears that pleading voice,
Distinctly through the years.
He sees a small girl's upturned face,
Upturned with eyes aglow,
Saying, "It's time for Sunday School
Please, Daddy, won't you go?"

— Anonymous

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS

Help us to help each other, Lord,
  Each other's cross to bear;
Let each his friendly aid afford,
  And feel his brother's care.

Help us to build each other up,
  Our little stock improve;
Increase our faith, confirm our hope,
  And perfect us in love.

Up into Thee, the Living Head,
  Let us in all things grow;
Till Thou hast made us free indeed,
  And spotless here below.

Then, when the mighty work is wrought,
  Receive Thy ready bride;
Give us in heaven a happy lot
  With all the sanctified.

— Charles Wesley

ARE YOU A PRUDE?

We do not like to be called a "prude". In this present age, no one wants to be thought of as being too-serious, too-modest or too-moral. All want to be thought of as a "regular" fellow. On the other hand we all like to be called "brave". Is it so bad to be called a "prude" when we recall that the original meaning of prude was "brave"? The thought of its real meaning should inspire us to bravery in living up to the standard of God's Word.

Those serving God have always had to be brave. Satan throws his smokescreen of sin and derision before the Christian in such a way that it appears to be all-powerful. The brave Christian must endure whatever taunts and opposition that comes his way. One of Satan's favorite schemes to thwart the Christian is name-calling. Satan, using his earthly servants, has a large vocabulary of names to call those who are brave enough to oppose him. Whether the name is "Pharisee" or "radical" or "prude", it is designed to undermine the determination of the Christian who is determined to live out the commands of the Bible and the guidelines of the Church.

The prude is accused of being overly concerned with morals and modesty. In the present, low, moral condition of the world any concern for modesty is immediately known and often ridiculed. The Christian who shows a great concern for modesty and morality, even in small things, is subjected to criticism not only from the world but even from other Christians. He is called a prude; he is thought to be too strict; he is foolish for denying himself alot of fun. After all,

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

neither the world nor popular Christianity expects a man to "hew close to the line" of the Biblical standard of morality and modesty. The popular style of Christianity, today, is to have a little bit of religion, alot of sports, alot of business ability, alot of talk and alot of sloppy, warmed-over, worldly living. Today's Christian is a back-slapping, talkative, ever-happy person who can mix in with the world in a comfortable way in whatever is going on.

Satan's taunts often discourage us very quickly. That is their purpose. He wants to keep us from REALLY serving God, from REALLY living a Christian life. If his taunts cause us to slacken our efforts in behalf of Christian morality and modesty, he is well pleased. If we slacken a little, he is sure that we will gradually relax even more in our Christian endeavor. It is always easier to follow the downward path that requires no real effort than to struggle upward against the current of the main stream of immorality.

When we were children there were times when remarks were made about us that upset us. Perhaps, we ran home in tears to report the name we had been called in ridicule or teasing. There we were often counseled to forget the careless, if cruel, remark by the words —

Sticks and stones may break my bones,
But words cannot hurt me.

Yet we knew that those words did hurt us although not physically. Perhaps it was our pride that was most damaged. The cruel remarks we are taunted with as adults also hurt. Our pride, our honesty, our morality are called into question by Satan's servants. These remarks, rather than drive us to discouragement, should make us glad that we are worthy to suffer for and like our Saviour.

Jesus met this type of opposition throughout His earthly ministry. He was even accused of being of the Devil. He continued to suffer their taunts even while upon the cross. We picture Him hanging there, naked, before His accusers and tormentors. We wonder, could our lives be made naked and open before the world and still not deserve some of the taunts and remarks thrown up against us? He did not deserve their abuse, but what about us? Are we better than our Master and Example? Should we expect to bear less in this day that is about as morally dark as the day in which He ministered here?

To stand against the taunts leveled at Christians, who stand for Biblical morals and modesty, demands a high degree of bravery. That bravery does not come from our own poor supply of strength. It comes only with our dependance upon Him.

If you have the courage to step out and stand for Christ and the Church, you have the courage to face the taunts and nicknames thrown at you by the world. Remember, when they are calling you a "prude" they are really calling you "brave". Live that bravery before them.

GIANTS IN THE LAND

"And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight." Read Numbers 13:17-33.

Moses had led the children of Israel right up to the border of Canaan and had sent spies over to bring back a report. The above quotation is the report they brought back. Needless to say, the children of Israel were afraid. They did not believe they could possess the land, which they could not of themselves, but God had promised to go before them and help them. Because of their unbelief and sin, they had to wander around in the Wilderness for forty years. None of the ones that murmured got to enter Canaan. Only Joshua and Caleb (who had said they could take the land, when they spied it out) and the children that grew up in the Wilderness got to pass over Jordan into Canaan. For God had said, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1:9.

These giants in the land take on many different forms. When I was a little girl my mother read to me from Hurlburt's Bible Stories for children. The story of David and Goliath made a big impression on me. When Mother combed my tangled hair and I would protest, she would say, "Let's conquer the Giant this morning." I felt I had won a real battle the morning I brought the comb and brush to her and could say, "Let's conquer the Giant." Later, embroidery threads tangled and I would say to myself, "Conquer the Giant," and get to work and untangle the threads.

Backward, turn backward, Oh, time in your flight,
Make me a child again, just for tonight.

The little tangles were Giants then and the tangles of life still loom as Giants. When we were little our parents helped us. Now, we must turn to Jesus, even as Peter, when Jesus asked him, "Will ye also go away?" And his answer, "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." John 6:68.

This is the kind of God we can trust. Joshua called the people

together, when he was old, and reminded them, "And behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the Lord your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof." Joshua 23:14.

God is willing to go before us and help us conquer our Giants: the everyday tangles that threaten our Peace. These Giants come from the devil. "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." I Peter 5:8.

Anger is a big Giant, discontent is another. The cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches are truly big Giants, that loom in our everyday pathway. Discouragement, I think, is the biggest Giant of all.

Jesus is the one we come to. "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." I Peter 5:7.

Why should I worry, why should I fret?
The Lord Jesus has never failed me yet.

He wants us to trust Him. These Giants would block our pathway and hinder our journey to Canaan-land. We must stand up to them and boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Hebrews 3:6. He has promised and we believe; "Therefore". When there is a "therefore" we must look and see what it is there for. "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." Heb. 2:1.

CONQUER that GIANT!

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 ElPomar Ave., Waterford, Calif. 95386

"HIS COMMANDMENTS ARE NOT GRIEVOUS"

When we look at the trend in the majority of Churches today, we see, one-by-one, the teachings of Christ being ignored and set aside. There are many reasons why professing Christians choose to lay aside the commandments given in the Bible. Yet, the real reason is simply a lack of love for the Christ who bought them. Jesus' own words in John 14:23 tell us, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." In the following verse, He tells the other side of

the story, "He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings . . ." "If ye love me, keep my commandments." When Christ said these words in John 14:15, He meant all of His commandments. He didn't say for us to keep only the easy ones or those we wanted to keep. It is necessary for the child of God to keep all of His commandments. "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, He is guilty of all." James 2:10.

It is hard to understand how people can accept some of Christ's teachings as important in their life and then push the rest aside and say they are no longer needed. One example is the love feast service. Many today are willing to eat of the supper and to partake of the bread and cup. Yet, at the thought of stooping to wash another's feet, they say that this is no longer necessary. Our Lord must have felt it was important, to have taken time out of His last few hours with His disciples, to give us this ordinance of feet washing. The words of our Lord in John 13:14-15, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." How it must grieve our Lord to see those He died for, turn aside from teaching this when it is stated so clearly.

Then we think of the simple life our Lord has asked us to live. Our Church has always stood for nonconformity to the world in our manner of dress, jewelry, and so forth. It is hard for the world and also for some in the Church to see the need of living a plain and simple life. "Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price." I Peter 3:3-4. "Nonconformity" means to not pattern after or not be in harmony with. Who are we trying to please? Are we dressing in clothing to catch the eye of those around us? If we are, God is not happy with us. If we are to be God's children, we must stay separate from the world. If we play with the "toys" of the world, we may be led astray. A life of separation is a command of our Lord. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." II Cor. 6:17.

Christ has asked many things of His Church; thus the Church has asked many things of each of Her members. The Elders of our Church have labored long, with the guidance of the Spirit, to lay patterns or guidelines for us, as members, to follow. These guidelines, taken from the Holy Scriptures, are to be boundries for

our lives. Christ didn't give these commandments to be burdens to us, neither did our Church adopt them to make a hard way. In Ephesians 5:27, we find the reason why Christ gave the commandments of nonconformity "that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

It should teach us deeply, when we think of the great love our Lord had for us: He willingly died to give us Life. Christ died because it was the payment God demanded for our sins. In the same way, Christ has commanded and asked many things of His children, the Church. The reason is that He knows it is only by walking the paths and following the examples He has given, that we will be the pure, unspotted bride, He longs, one day, to be joined with.

Yes, for us to be loyal pilgrims here in this life, we have a battle to fight, and a race to run. Do we, as we should, love our Lord as He has loved us? "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." I John 5:3. Heaven will surely be worth it all.

Brother Jim Meyers
Torreon Mission

A DISH OF BEANS

If someone offered you a dish of beans at mealtime, would you take it just to satisfy your hunger? Or would you be willing to wait a little while until you could have a steak with all the trimmings? Esau came in from the field feeling starved. Jacob was cooking some pottage of lentils, similar to beans. In order to get food, "lest he die", Esau gave up the best (his birthright) and settled for a dish of beans. His hunger was so important to him that he took the first solution he saw, without considering the outcome.

Beans are good and nourishing, but very few would choose them when other good food is available. Yet, we often turn down the "steak" God wants to give us and settle instead for a "dish of beans". The steak is the best; the beans are just something to get by on. God wants to give us His best, if we are ready for it, and willing to wait. "For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Heb. 10:36. We can't expect much if we won't wait until God provides.

You've heard the phrase, "grabbing at straws". It describes how we grab for the first, little thing that might help us. We're not willing to wait until God provides the best answer to our problems. He

wants us to wait on Him, and until we do, all we'll be getting is a "dish of beans". God cannot give us all that He wants to give, until we do things His way. He can see the whole situation, therefore He can really provide what is best, if we just wait. But how easy it is to be in a rush and grab whatever we can find, no matter how foolish!

We sometimes feel that God surely ought to do something when we are so weary of waiting. If He doesn't, we think, we can't stand it any longer. Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." That power was not limited to him; it is available to us also. When we calm down inside and say, Lord, you take over and lead the way, then I'll follow," some wonderful things will happen. Our submission makes it possible for God to move and do what He wants to do for us. By our impatience and lack of trust in God, we stand in the way of having our own prayers answered.

Being willing to settle for the least, when we could have something much better if we wait awhile, doesn't make sense, does it? This impatience tells God that we really don't want His best, and that we really don't believe He wants to bless us as He has promised. It doesn't make sense for us, the creation, to be telling God, our Creator, that He doesn't understand or care or else He would surely hurry up and do something. "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Isa. 40:31. The blessing is for those who wait on the Lord.

Did you ever tell a whining, impatient child that when he behaves properly, then you will listen to his problems? Then, and only then, do you consider giving what the child desires. Whining is not acceptable behavior, yet we whine to God. He has to make us wait then until we behave properly before He can give us anything. We'd better be glad that He doesn't just give us "a dish of beans" to get rid of us when we complain. As David said, we should "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." Psalms 27:14.

Esau sold his birthright, something very valuable, for a mere dish of beans. He missed the blessing and it was gone forever. How many times have you lost a blessing because of your impatience or your failure to follow where Jesus led you? Painful, isn't it? And oh, so foolish! When you realize what you've missed, you will wish you had listened and waited. You will wish you could change your mistake, as Esau tried to change his. You can't change the past, but from now on, you can wait on the Lord and be blessed.

When we wait and let God give us all that He wants to, we will have

joy to overflowing. God is not stingy and He won't give you just enough to get by on. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19. Our blessings will overflow and encourage others in their Christian walk of life. We will be a source of strength to them. Our own peace of mind will increase along with our faith and ability to step out on God's promises. We won't be afraid to wait, for we will know that the answer will come. "Perfect love casteth out fear." God's perfect love enables us to trust Him.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." II Cor. 5:7. When you pray to God again, step out on faith. Try to pray something like this: "Lord, I want your will in this matter. Please supply this need and help me to wait until you do, even if it hurts." It most likely will hurt to wait, but you'll be glad you did when the blessing comes. Esau's stomach hurt and he felt faint so he gave in to the discomfort. Don't you think that later he wished he had suffered a little longer, rather than make the bargain he did? Surely he could have waited a little longer and was not ready to die. We, too, can wait, if we look to God.

Abraham and Sarah took matters into their own hands, in order to have the promised son. The resulting conflict still goes on between the Jews and Arabs. It always pays to wait, even when we can't see any possible solution. Sometimes, it does us good to be in a situation where we must wait on God. When we don't know what to do or which way to turn, and we still hold on in faith, then we are relying on God alone. If we take matters into our own hands, we only make things worse and cause more heartache. Try waiting on God in your life. Look for the best He has for you. Don't just settle for a little dish of beans.

Sister Eileen Broadwater,
Rt. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

A man cannot get right with God and not make his wrongs right with man.

If you expect to defeat the devil, you must remain under the blood of Christ.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

DISCOURAGEMENT

Numbers 20:14-29

It is easy for people to get discouraged. We get ideas about what we would like to do. When it doesn't turn out the way we want it to, we are discouraged. Israel was discouraged many times because they had their own ideas of what they wanted and forgot that God was leading them.

Israel came to a place called Kedesh. It was on the border of a country called Edom. The people of Edom were related to Esau, the brother of Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. The Edomites and the Israelites were all descendents of Isaac who was the father of Jacob and Esau. Israel wanted to pass through Edom. It was the shortest way to Canaan and there was a good road to travel. Moses sent messengers to the king of Edom and begged him to let them pass through the land of Edom. They promised to pay for their drinking water, to stay on the highway, and to not pass through any fields or vineyards. The king refused to let them go and, finally, came out against Israel with swords to drive them away. Israel had to turn back and go the long way around.

They journeyed till they came to Mt. Hor, a large mountain. God told Moses to take Aaron and Aaron's son, Eleazer, and bring them up into the mountain. There Moses was to take off the garments of High Priest from Aaron and put them on Eleazer. God said that Aaron would die there. As the children of Israel watched, Moses took Aaron and Eleazer up into the mountain and did as God had commanded. Aaron died in the top of the mountain. When Moses and Eleazer returned and the people knew that Aaron was dead, they mourned for Aaron thirty days.

It was discouraging for Israel to be turned away from the promised land again. Aaron had been their High Priest and had been good to them. Now Aaron was dead. It was just one disappointment after another.

Do you ever feel this way when things go wrong? Israel didn't trust God to do what was best for them. They wanted their own way, right now. If we trust Jesus and do what he tells us, we won't need to be discouraged. Jesus says, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Rom. 8:28.

Brother Rudy Cover

OBITUARY

HARRY SWEITZER

Harry E. Sweitzer, the oldest son of the late Curvin and Alice Bortner was born near Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania, September 13, 1910. He was united in marriage to Helen Wantz in January 1936.

To this union ws born three daughters: Sis. Blanche Eberly of Lititz, Pennsylvania, Sis. Goldie at home and Sis. Sarah Musselman, R. 2, Littlestown, Pennsylvania. He was baptized into the Dunkard Brethren Church in his youth and elected to the Deacon's office at the Walnut Grove Congregation in 1956, in which he served faithfully until death. After a month's illness, he died May 27, 1976 in the Hanover Hospital.

He is survived by his family, six grandchildren, three foster grandchildren, three brothers, Clifton N. and Walter A. of Red Lion, Pennsylvania, Curvin E. of Stewartstown, Pennsylvania and one sister, Mrs. Goldie Godfrey of Red Lio, Pennsylvania.

Funeral services were conducted at the Shrewsbury Church by Elder James Kegerreis, Bro. Virgil Leatherman and Elder Howard Surbey on May 30, 1976 with burial in the adjoining cemetery.

OUR FATHER

Our father was a quiet man,
Beloved by one and all.
Everyone who knew our Dad
Fond memories can recall.
He lived a very humble life,
Content with what he had;
We never heard him once complain,
This man who was our Dad.

He farmed the land some of his life
And planted seeds in season;
The seed he sowed the deepest,
Grows in our hearts and reason.
He taught us right, from infant up,
And in his gentle way,
He really drove the lesson home,
By living it each day.

He gave us many gifts in life
That money cannot buy.
The gifts of honesty and truth
We treasure very high.
He taught us to be thankful
For what things we had;
But most of all we're thankful
That we had him for Our Dad!

—adapted from a poem by
Virginia De Groat

A precious one from me has gone,
A voice I loved is stilled,
A place is vacant in my home
That can never be filled.

The loneliness in my heart
Is all I can bear,
I miss you more each day
Since God called you to His Care.

You are not dead - not lost,
But gone before,
You live with me in memory
And will - forevermore.

God needed another Angel
To worship before His throne,
So, He looked down from Heaven,
And called my loved one Home.

Time has passed since that sad day,
The one I loved was called away,
God took you, it was His will.
But your memory lingers still.

More and more each day I miss you
Friends may think the wound is healed,
But they little know the sorrow
That lives in my heart concealed.

Yes, God took you home, it was His will
And in my heart your memory liveth still,
But only a star shines over the grave
Of the one I loved, and could not save.

—Selected and adapted - The Family

MEASURING GRAIN

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again." Luke 6:38.

In Jerusalem I saw the merchant and the buyer measuring the grain that was bought and sold in the market place. The measure is seized with both hands and partly filled with grain and is then shaken most vigorously. After this more grain is put in and again the shaking process is repeated until the grain is thoroughly shaken together. Then more grain is added and pressed down in the measure with both hands until one is thoroughly convinced the measurer is determined to get all the grain possible into and on the measure. He heaps it up, pressing the grain on; and when you think it impossible for him to add any more, he makes a hole in the top of the heap on the measure and then takes up a handful of grain and allows it to run from his hand into the hole until it fills up and up and runs over all around the measure. Then the purchaser carefully puts the mouth of the sack over the measure, and thus secures every grain on the overrunning measure when it is emptied into his cloth. I watched the measuring a number of times and always with intense interest. Each time my mind reverted to the words of the Master who, when He was in Palestine, witnessed just such measuring as is here described. And He not only witnessed it but used it to illustrate one of the great truths He gave to humanity.

— Selected from Elder D. L. Miller's
The Eternal Verities

LESSONS FROM THE BOOK OF RUTH

The similarity between the books of Esther and Ruth is too obvious to be missed. Both women were brought by God into unusual marriages: Esther, an Israelite, to be a heathen king; Ruth, a Moabitess, to the Israelite, Boaz. Through these marriages God was to accomplish His eternal purposes. Ruth is a real love story! She was to become the great-grandmother of David and thus an ancestress of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Ruth is about different kinds of love: the love of a daughter-in-law, the love for a mother-in-law, Naomi, and love for a man, Boaz.

Finally, the overshadowing love of God for His people.

Historically, the book of Ruth is set in the era when the Judges reigned in Israel. The people had been in the land for some time now. Joshua had brought the people over Jordan, had seen God's tremendous work at Jericho, and eventually had subdued the inhabitants of Canaan. But after Joshua died, the nation returned to its disobedient and evil ways.

A famine was ravaging Israel, so Elimeliech and Naomi decided to emigrate to Moab. Their two sons married two girls of Moab. But tragedy strikes, and in a short period of time Naomi finds herself a widow and childless . . . her husband and sons dead. In much bitterness, she decides to return home and spend her seemingly miserable future there. Ruth, her daughter-in-law, insists on going with her. Once they have settled down in Bethlehem, Ruth, looking for work, picks the field belonging to Boaz, a wealthy relative of Naomi. Ruth and Boaz meet, fall in love, and marry. Their son, Obed, became the light of Naomi's life and ultimately a man of great importance: He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David. Probably no other book in the Bible so clearly shows the providence of God directing and controlling the apparently trivial incidents of daily life in order to bring blessing to many lives and lasting glory to the name of God.

Several beautiful segments of this story might be discussed here. First, the acceptance of Naomi's God by Ruth. She had nothing to gain and everything to lose by leaving her homeland. She would be faced with a racial problem, maybe find herself unwanted and isolated in the community and in a country that had been a sworn enemy for years. Even under these adverse conditions, Ruth accepted God.

We have here a beautiful love and relationship between daughter-in-law and mother, mother-in-law and daughter . . . "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

Ruth wasn't looking for welfare. God has little time for idlers and loafers. She came to Naomi with a clear-cut proposal, "Let me go out and find a job." God leads and uses busy people: David in the sheepfold; Saul looking for his father's asses; Amos plodding behind the plow; Peter, James, John and Andrew mending their nets.

In this book, we find a message concerning marriage. The best matchmaker is God! Marriage is the biggest decision we make

outside of salvation. If ever we need the guidance of God in our lives, it is in this area. God never makes a mistake and the best marriages really are made in Heaven! We can well notice the preparation that both Boaz and Ruth go through, in anticipation of a proper and legal marriage. Remember too, that among the good wishes offered the happy couple when they are finally married is, "The Lord make the woman that is come into thine house like Rachel and like Leah, which two did build the house of Israel: and do thou worthily in Ephratah, and be famous in Bethlehem: and let thy house be like the house of Pharez, whom Tamar bare unto Judah, of the seed which the Lord shall give thee of this young woman."

How was this wish fulfilled? Ruth is the great-grandmother of David, God's choice to be king. Bethlehem became the city of David. Even Ephratah became a well known area. Micah, the prophet, said hundreds of years later, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler of Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2.

Naomi could not see a plan when she suffered her bereavements and journeyed home, yet God was in her decision. God put in Ruth's heart a strong determination to return with Naomi, although it was unconscious. Let's allow God to have His way in our lives; leave the choices to Him, believe He is always on the Throne and remember, He NEVER makes mistakes.

Brother Leonard Wertz

NEWS ITEMS

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Mechanicsburg Congreation will have Lovefeast on October 9, 1976, beginning with an afternoon service at 2:00 p.m. Please come.

Sister Carolyn Peffer, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The Lord willing, the revival meetings at West Fulton will begin October 3, and continue for two weeks. Elder Hayes Reed from Modesto, California will be the speaker.

Our Harvest Meeting will be on the last Sunday of our meetings, October 17.

You are welcome to attend these meetings and do pray for them.

Sister Leola Beck, Cor.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The Lord willing, the Dayton, Virginia Congregation will hold a nine-day revival beginning Saturday evening, October 9th, going through Sunday morning October 17th. Services are to begin each evening at 7:30. The Lovefeast service will be Saturday evening, October 16. Bro. Jack Snyder has consented to hold these meetings. Come if you can and pray that souls might be revived.

Bro. Eugene Kauffman, Cor.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The goodly number of articles, which have come in during the hot summer months, are greatly appreciated by the Editor. Now, as Fall is upon us there is a need for more articles. Remember, the Bible Monitor will be what you make it. Either it will be full of original articles or it will be full of selected articles. Which do you prefer? If you wish a Bible Monitor containing original articles, read the Editorial Policy. Then Write.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER

Oct. 3 — "Shall Any Teach God Knowledge?" Job (20) 21:1-34.
Oct. 10 — "He Knoweth the Way I Take" Job (22) 23:1-17.
Oct. 17 — "The Wicked Brought Low." Job 24:1-25
Oct. 24 — "My Righteousness I Hold Fast." Job (25; 26) 27:1-23.
Oct. 31 — "Where Shall Wisdom Be Found?" Job 28:1-28.

QUESTIONS:

(1) What did Job think of the words of his so-called friends? Job 21:3.
(2) Of whom did Job seek consolation? Job 23:3,6
(3) How did Bildad compare man's righteousness with God? Job 25:3.
(4) What was the one thing Job was determined to keep? Job 27:6.
(5) What does Job say wisdom is? What is understanding? Job 28:28.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR OCTOBER 1976
COMFORT

Memory Verse, Isa. 61:1 & 2
The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

Fri. 1 - Isa. 61:1-11
Sat. 2 - Isa. 66:1-24

Memory Verse, Eze. 14:22 & 23
Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you, and ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought upon it. And they shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings: and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord God.

Sun. 3 - Jer. 8:1-22
Mon. 4 - Jer. 31:1-21
Tues. 5 - Jer. 31:22-40
Wed. 6 - Lam. 1:1-22
Thurs. 7 - Lam. 2:1-22
Fri. 8 - Eze. 5:1-17
Sat. 9 - Eze. 14:1-23

Memory Verse, Math. 5:4.
Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Sun. 10 - Hos. 2:1-23
Mon. 11 - Zec. 1:1-21
Tue. 12 - Zec. 10:1-12
Wed. 13 - Math. 2:1-23
Thurs. 14 - Math. 5:1-26
Fri. 15 - Math. 9:1-26
Sat. 16 - Mark 10:35-52

Memory Verse, Luke 16:25.
But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

Sun. 17 - Luke 16:14-31
Mon. 18 - John 11:17-46
Tues. 19 - John 14:1-31
Wed. 20 - John 15:1-27
Thurs. 21 - John 16:1-28
Fri. 22 - Act. 9:1-31
Sat. 23 - Acts 16:16-40

Memory Verse, John 14:16.
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

Sun. 24 - Acts 20:7-38
Mon. 25 - Rom. 1:1-25
Tues. 26 - Rom. 15:1-24
Wed. 27 - 1 Cor. 14:1-31
Thurs. 28 - 2 Cor. 1:1-24
Fri. 29 - 2 Cor. 2:1-17
Sat. 30 - 2 Cor. 7:1-16

Memory Verse, John 14:18.
I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Sun. 31 - 2 Cor. 13:1-14

Memory Verses, Rom. 1:12
That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Rom. 15:4.
For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV OCTOBER 1, 1976 NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THY WORD

Thy word is like a garden, Lord,
With flowers bright and fair;
And every one who seeks, may pluck
A lovely nosegay there.

Thy word is like a deep, deep mine,
And jewels rich and rare
Are hidden in its mighty depths
For every searcher there.

Thy word is like the starry host;
A thousand rays of light
Are seen, to guide the traveller
And make his pathway bright.

Thy word is like a glorious choir
And loud its anthems ring;
Though many tongues and parts unite,
It is one song they sing.

— Edwin Hodder

ENCOURAGEMENT

When our pathway is rough and dark, we appreciate a few words of encouragement. It does not matter whether our undertaking is spiritual or temporal. Our temporal affairs are only for a time so we can more easily see the accomplishment of our goal. But our spiritual affairs have an accomplishment beyond this lifetime. Since we can not see the end of our Spiritual struggles, we are prone to discouragement. A few words of encouragement mean a lot in our Spiritual life.

God offers encouragement to His children in various ways. Through His Word, through material blessings, through Spiritual blessings and through others. The child of God is encouraged when he reads in His Sacred Word of those who were discouraged yet were helped by God to have Victory. Gideon was given a great task to do under trying circumstances. His army of three hundred was to stand before the mighty hosts of Midian. God encouraged him first when Gideon spread the fleeces before Him. Then just before the battle, Gideon was further strengthened by overhearing the dream of the Midianite soldier. After this encouragement Gideon was able to carry out his part in Israel's victory over her enemies. Elijah had many victories in serving His Lord but he also had times of discouragement. He was convinced he was the only one left who desired to serve God. God had to show him that there were still others who had not bowed the knee to Baal. It is an encouragement for the average Christian to see the need of these leaders of old was the same as his own today. God encouraged them and He continues to offer encouragement today.

THE BIBLE MONITOR OCTOBER 1, 1976

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

To read not only these examples of God's encouragement but also of the future blessings of the faithful Christian has an encouraging effect on the one prone to discouragement. The hardships of the struggle along Pilgrim Pathway become lighter when compared with the Glory Beyond. That glory is not only in a future Heavenly Home but in living a life here that is pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Righteous living is a reward within itself and serves as a continuing encouragement.

God encourages His children in their Spiritual endeavors with material and temporal blessings. Although God does not always choose to bless in a material way yet the Christian finds he has a plenty so his temporal needs are met. By choosing the Spiritual over the temporal the Christian has these things added above and beyond the Spiritual blessings. It is an encouragement to know that God knows our condtion and cares about it. He is interested even in our material affairs.

As we travel the dusty pathways of this world, as we see the sights of this world and as we hear the speech of this world, we are often driven to discouragement. All seems to be at variance with God's Will. The immorality of the world causes us much anguish. We wonder if we can continue on. Then we have the privilege of attending General Conference, or a Lovefeast or a Revival or our regular Church services. There in the worship of God and fellowship of the Brethren discouragement is driven away. A new attitude and a new desire is born there. The observance of His commands, whether in the observing the Lovefeast ordinances or in merely assembling ourselves together, brings new courage. We see others in the same situation as ourselves. We hear plain Gospel sermons that stir our hearts. We find ourselves with renewed courage, a stronger faith and a greater vision.

God not only deals with us by Himself and through His Word but also uses others to encourage us. A few words of encouragement do much good. It is not only the Elders and ministers who need words of commendation for Spirit-directed messages and timely advice. The Deacons need encouragement in their calling as they go on the Visit, as they assist the needy and as they care for the temporal arrangements on Lovefeast occasions. Each and every member needs encouragement for all meet many trying situations and temptations. A little encouragement offered at the right time might decrease the need of discipline later. However the dispensing of encouragement does not negate the use of discipline. A Spiritual congregation in good order is the best encouragement a Christian can have. He knows Gods Word is respected along with the Church's rules He knows each member is important enough that an effort will be made so he will live up to the Gospel standard

When you are discouraged where do you turn for encouragement? Do you line-up with Gideon and Elijah? Do you turn to God?

LIFE: PHYSICAL, SPIRITUAL AND ETERNAL

A Sermon by Bro. Paul Byfield

Genesis 1:26-27, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them." Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

Had man remained as God made him, he would have all three lives, Physical, Spiritual, and Eternal, but Satan spoiled it all for man. Man had the Physical life that God gave. He walked and talked with God, which was the Spiritual life, and if he had not sinned, he would have lived Eternally.

Physical life. What is it? James asks a question, "For what is your life?" And then he answers, "It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14. We do not even know if we will be here tomorrow. Our physical life is a fragile thing. Peter tells us, "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:" I Peter 1:24. Physical man has nothing to boast of, but he is often boastful, proud, high-minded and doing the works of the flesh. Galatians 5:19-21.

We did not choose to be born into this life. Adam was made by God's choice. How do we get back in favor with God and into the Spiritual life? We want it and He wants us to have it. Luke 10:27-28, "And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself. And he (Jesus) said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live." Romans 10:8-10, "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Acts 2:37b-39, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the

remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." In these Scriptures we have Faith, Confession, Repentance and Baptism.

We are sustained by the Word of God. Deut. 8:3, "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." This was when the children of Israel were in the wilderness going from Egypt to Canaan.

Jesus says, "I am the bread of Life." John 6:32-40, 48-54. Verse 35, "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." Verse 54, "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." Verse 60, "Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" Jesus knew that there were some who believed not. Verse 66, "From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him." Jesus asked the twelve, "Will ye also go away?" And Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life." John 6:67-68. If we walk in the Spirit we will have the fruits of the Spirit. Gal. 5:22. We shall be as the Psalmist. Our delight will be in the law of the Lord; and in his law we will meditate day and night. Psalms 1:2.

We shall have Eternal Life if we continue on faithful to the end. Luke 18:28-30, "Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. And he (Jesus) said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting."

Many times young and old Christians, alike, need to "come to themselves," even as the prodigal son. Look back! See where we've been. Look ahead! See where we want to be.

Satan robbed man of Eternal Life, but Jesus gave it back. John 3:14-17, And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life;

but the wrath of God abideth on him." The prize is not at the beginning nor in the middle of the race, but to all who hold out to the end.

When I've gone the last mile of the way,
I will rest at the close of the day,
And I know there are joys that await me,
When I've gone the last mile of the way.

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 ElPomar Ave.
Waterford, California 95386

CHILDREN'S PAGE

FIERY SERPENTS AMONG THE PEOPLE

Numbers 21:4-9

Have you ever been bitten by a poisonous snake? Not many people have been, but once-in-awhile someone is. In California we have only one poisonous snake, the rattlesnake. If a rattler strikes, you must have medical care soon or you might die. Rattlesnakes usually make a noise with the rattles on their tails as a warning before they strike, but not always. People, as a rule, don't like snakes. I suppose we don't like snakes because in the Garden of Eden the devil entered into a serpent and deceived Eve, causing Adam and Eve to disobey God. We have had sin to contend with ever since. When we disobey God, that is sin.

The children of Israel were traveling from Mt. Hor toward the Red Sea. They were tired and weary. They had nothing to eat but manna and they were out of water. The people spoke against God and Moses and said, "Wherefore have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread."

"And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many of them died." Can you imagine how the people felt? They had complained and complained against God, so God gave them something to really complain about. It was a serious matter. If something wasn't done quickly, they would all perish from those terrible serpents. Then the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that He take away the serpents from us."

Moses prayed for the people and the Lord said unto Moses, "Make a fiery serpent and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live." And Moses made a serpent of brass and put it on a pole and if any man had been bitten and looked upon the serpent of brass, he lived.

Jesus says, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." How could Jesus, who never sinned, be represented as a serpent of sin? Here is the answer. Those who were condemned to die on a cross were the worst of sinners - criminals of the lowest sort. Jesus, who was innocent of any crime, was condemned by wicked men to die on the cross. God allowed this to happen for you and me that we might have our sins forgiven. Jesus, who knew no sin, was lifted up on the cross and took our place. HE BECAME SIN FOR US, that we might have eternal life. Will you give your life to Him? and live - really live!

Brother Rudy Cover

LORD, IS IT I?

"Lord, is it I who betrays You, not as Judas did by a kiss, but by the way I live, the things I say, the places I go, the friends that I have?" The disciples asked, "Lord, is it I?" Jesus answered, "He that dippeth his hand with me into the dish, the same shall betray me." Matt. 26:22-23. Judas was there in the company of the followers of Christ. He was supposed to be Christ's follower and friend, yet he betrayed Him. Am I like that?

Is it I, the Dunkard, whose life is filled with just things, rather than being filled with the Spirit? Or is it only the drunkard who is filled with a craving which pushes Christ out of his life? If I, a believer, get all wrapped up in everyday activities and leave Christ out, I cannot please Him. If my life gets so full of activity that I don't have time to pray and read the Bible in peace and quiet, then I'm too busy, and my life will be empty. Don't give God your spare time; give Him your best time!

Is it I, who thinks I have done all there is to do, who has yet left undone some necessary things, as the Pharisees did? The Pharisees were very particular about keeping traditions; they were able to tell others how to live, but didn't do it themselves. They just made things look good outwardly. Jesus said, "Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." Matt. 23:28. Am I like them, clean and righteous-looking outside, but inside full of corruption?

Is it I who refuses to forgive as if I never did anything wrong? Is it I who thinks I am so good that I am qualified to pass judgment on others? When my actions hurt others, I am wrong; to not admit it is also wrong. If I don't forgive others, my own sins will not be forgiven. If unforgiven sin stands between God and me, my prayers will not be heard until I confess my own sin, not someone else's. I need to judge myself, for God alone is able to search the hearts of people.

Is it I who criticizes everything and everyone, no matter what they do? Do I ever commend anyone who deserves it, or do I spend my time condemning others? Some people are so harsh with others; am I like that? Criticism will not help anyone, but having love and compassion for them will help. "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Matt. 7:12a. Love and kindness will bring a good reaction and encourage others to seek a better way of life. Criticism drives them away and builds resentment. Which do you give?

Is it I who sees someone in need and walks on by, as the priest and Levite did? Is it I who says, "I feel sorry for you", but does nothing to help? Sometimes we must suffer before we have true compassion and understanding of other's needs. When we get in a spot where we can't see any way out and we really need God, then we know what it's like for others in a situation they can't remedy. Even if the problem is the person's own fault, we should still have compassion. Christ had compassion for us and we don't deserve it! How can we give any less?

Is it I who sings, "Oh, how I love Jesus", and then ignore what He wants me to do? Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. This goes beyond the general principles of salvation and Christian living, for each of us has a personal responsibility. It is assigned by the Holy Spirit (see I Cor. 12) and to not take care of it is a serious matter. It is like the man who buried his talent, and found himself outside the will of his master. We, too, will be outside the will of the Master, if we do not keep His commandments and follow the leading of the Spirit.

Is it I who thinks because one of my parents was a Christian that I am all set? The Jews said, "We have Abraham to our father", but that didn't save them. Abraham had a personal faith in God (see Heb. 11) and we must also. Your parents' faith or a friend's faith may please God, but no other person's faith can save you. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Rom. 10:9. This is a personal choice, which only you can make for yourself.

Is it I who is only "raising grass"? There is a story of a father who gave his three boys some money to invest. Two made wise investments and received a nice profit. The third invested in seeds and planted a garden. Because of the work in weeding and so forth, he soon decided it was easier to raise grass, so he let it take over. When his father asked for a report, it was sadly given. Raising grass was easy, but it didn't produce the desired fruit. Are we like that in God's service, taking the easy way out and never producing the fruit He desires?

To betray is to be unfaithful or to deceive. No matter how you do it, if you are unfaithful to Christ, you have betrayed Him. It is a personal matter, just as believing in Him is a personal one. If you have chosen to follow Jesus, don't betray Him. Be faithful to Him and keep His commandments, then you will receive a crown of life. "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." Rev. 2:10b.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

THE DAYS OF APOSTASY ARE UPON US

We, a Christian people, sit and read our Bibles day by day, but do we STOP to think of just WHAT the words are saying to us? Do we read with understanding or do we just read words?

Dear Brother and Sister, do you ever think of what the word "apostasy" means when you read it? Have you ever taken the time to look up the references on it? It is almost enough to shock one. In II Timothy 3 it tells a few things that will happen when the days of apostasy come upon us. What does this word "apostasy" mean to us? The definition of this word goes like this, the forsaking, leaving, falling away, abandonment of a former loyalty.

It seems that those days are here now, not just coming. Paul says that in those days there will be perilous times. The definition of "perilous" is, a warning of danger, a hazard, or jeopardy. Well this fits right in with this word "apostasy." It is dangerous to our Christian lives to fall away from the teachings of our Christ. The Christian is in jeopardy of leaving his faith for something which isn't real, but which SEEMS to be right.

We see that men will be lovers of their own selves, but this has been from the beginning of time. The Savior has given us the commandment that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. Thus if we do not love our neighbor, we are in jeopardy of apostasy. Why should we love ourselves so much? Oh, the heartache this will cause if we as Christians fall to the side with so much self love, that we cannot feel for anyone else.

Oh, the danger of coveting, this doesn't need to be our neighbor's wife. Anything anyone has, no matter how little or how big, is not to be coveted. But our self love makes us feel that we have need of it and we will do almost anything to get it, probably by some sneaky way. Then we start to boast of how we outsmarted our neighbor. We then boast of what fine things we have. We feel like, "don't you wish you were as good as I am." Oh; Aren't we proud? My Bible tells me that pride goeth before destruction. When we get to this point in

time, we can see that apostasy has a very definite hold on our lives. However, it still isn't too late for us to turn our lives back to the Lord, our Savior. We should hope by this time that some Christian has gotten to us and helped us return to the path of Truth and Right.

The next step in apostasy is that of blasphemy. At this point in apostasy, it is seldom that one will be willing to turn to God for help; Satan has such a strong hold that it is hard to break. If we go so far down the road of apostasy as to be a blasphemer, very possibly we have committed the unpardonable sin. This the only sin God saysHe will not forgive.

When we see all of these things going on about us, we should realize that the days of apostasy are upon us. If the Christian needs more to be convinced of this, let us look a little further into this third chapter of Second Timothy. We see that there are those who are disobedient to their parents. This isn't just the young, either, for all of us have a parent. If we do not follow all His teachings, then we are disobedient to God and we are in danger of apostasy. It is all the children who keep not the commandments of God and also the commandments of their Christian parents. It seems that no matter what one does for this kind of a person, it isn't appreciated. They think everyone should do for them all things at all times. Their thankfulness is gone out of their hearts.

It doesn't seem that a person could exist very long without affection, but II Timothy 3:3 says that there will be those without natural affection. We can look out over this wide world and see all those who have false affection and also truce breakers. Just look at all the wars that are going on overseas. Then there are those from other countries and from this country, also, who despise the Christian and the Good of the world. All they try to do is find fault with those who are trying to live up to God's Word.

Then comes the highminded lovers of pleasure. If we don't belong to the "crowd", these kind of people try to make us feel as though we have no place on God's good earth. These people only think of themselves and of the pleasure that they can have, if serving Satan can be termed as having pleasure. There isn't time in their lives to think of our Precious Savior or of what their lives consist. All is in going about seeking pleasure, not thinking of their soul's salvation or of how far they have fallen from the path of Truth and Life.

We, the Christian people, can be comforted with the thought, that we need not associate with this kind. Paul says that from these we are to turn away, we are to try the spirits, and hold fast that which is good.

May God, the Father, and Christ, our Savior, ever keep and protect you from this day of apostasy, so you might be of the faithful in the first resurrection.

In Christian Fellowship
Brother Orvis Smith
Quinter, Kansas 67752

GOING ON TO PERFECTION

Our aim as Christians is to go on to perfection. Perfection is the standard of Christianity. There is no such thing as standing still in Christianity. We go either heavenward or worldward. By observing the Biblical ordinances, God's means of grace, the stepping stones to greater spirituality. A Christian must work. We learn in Christ's gospel that He is the "Author of eternal salvation unto them that obey him." Jesus Christ is our highest Ideal. Picture Him standing at the top of a mountain, because of His exalted position. He offers us just the things we need. It is eternal Salvation. We are either at the foot of the mountain or somewhere on the mountain road, ascending or descending. We reach the top only by following Christ, Who has climbed that way and knows the road. He is acquainted with its dangers and struggles as well as its blessings. Paul made an appeal for us to go on and reach the top. We should go on to perfection. We should not always be laying a foundation but building on the foundation. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

Jesus Christ is our ideal and since He is perfect, if we are His true followers, we must strive for perfection. We cannot get to the top of this mountain unless we get on the right and proper way. We find in Christ's gospel as recorded by John, the words of Jesus, "I am the way, the truth and the life." We also find in this same Gospel these words, "I am the door." His principles are fundamental, they are the foundation of all Christian building. This foundation consists of: faith, repentance, baptism, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit, resurrection and eternal judgment. We must observe these to complete the foundation. This is just the beginning of Christianity. When we have the foundation laid or completed, we must go on to reach our goal or the top of the mountain. The only way to advance is to keep on going in Jesus' way. He wants to help each of us heavenward. By obeying self we cannot serve God, because we cannot serve two masters. We must follow Jesus completely if we wish to succeed.

To follow the Master we must be in close communication with Him. We need to pray for guidance. He has given us a daily guide which is the Bible. Study daily in His Precious Word. All the Bible ordinances are simply stepping stones on the way, herein lies the beauty of the life of a true believer. He lays not alone the foundation but he uses these steps unto perfection. We must have these to continue in life. Let us not confuse the ordinances Christ made, with those made by man. We must daily follow Christ, as this journey is a daily task. We have no time to slumber and sleep for the Bridegroom may come anytime. Jesus tells us, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of Heaven, but my Father only."

Matt. 24:36. We should always be busy in His vineyard, for He warns us, "Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

Sister E. M. Alltus
Modesto, California

OBITUARIES

DANIEL WITHERS

Daniel Howard Withers was born at Salem, Illinois, September 23, 1880, the son of John E. and Hannah Withers. On March 24, 1908, at Macdoel, California, he was united in marriage to Zelpha Snyder, who preceded him in death a number of years ago. He farmed most of his life. He came to Newberg in 1925 and lived here until his health forced him to live in nursing homes in McMinnville and Sheridan.

He passed away Thursday, July 15, 1976, at the Sheridan Nursing Home at the age of ninety-five years, nine months and twenty two days.

Surviving are two sons, Carl, of Salem and Homer, of Portland; a daughter, Hannah Mae Lenker of Crimora, Virginia; eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Bro. Withers was the last of the charter members of the Church in Newberg to pass. He was for many years a faithful deacon and throughout his life a good example in Christian living. He was a man of exceptional patience.

Funeral services were conducted in the Brown Funeral Home with Elder Galen Harlacher officiating and Elder Galen Litfin assisting on July 19. Private commitment was in the local Friends Cemetery.

SAMUEL BROSS

Samuel B. Bross, 84, died July 27, 1976 at Mt. Hope Dunkard Brethren Old Folks Home, Manheim, Pennsylvania. He was born August 31, 1891, a son of the late Uriah and Rebecca (Balsbaugh) Bross. He was a retired farmer and had formerly lived at Mt. Zion, Pennsylvania. Bro. Bross was a member of the Bethel Congregation for about fifteen years.

His first wife, Eva, died in 1931. His second wife, Amy, died November 20, 1975. A son, John Bross, and a step-son, Silas Keller, also preceded him in death.

Surviving are his children: Charles V., Lebanon, R. 1; Mary, wife of Jacob Meyer, Bernville, R. 1; Jacob H., Lebanon, R. 1; Anna, wife of Dwayne Wise, Chambersburg, R. 5; Eva, wife of Robert Stenger, Shady Grove; Caleb, Myertown, R. 3; his step-children; Ada, wife of Charles Bross, Lebanon, R. 1; Ruth, wife of Kenneth Wilderson, Chambersburg; Naomi, wife of Ralph Patches, Lebanon, R. 1; and

thirty-two grandchildren; forty-five great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held July 30 at the Dunkard Brethren Church in Frystown with Elders David Ebling and James Kegerreis officiating. Interment was made at Wolf's Union Meeting House Cemetery, Lebanon, R. 2.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Elder Dean St. John is R. 1, West Unity, Ohio 43570.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Pleasant Ridge's Fall Lovefeast will be November 6 and 7. Services will begin on Saturday at 11:00 A.M. Services also in afternoon. Lovefeast Saturday evening and services on Sunday.

Come enjoy these services with us.

Sister Ruth Kleinhan, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, the Grandview Congregation is looking forward to a one week revival meeting this fall. Our evangelist will be Elder James Kegerreis of Richland, Pennsylvania.

These meetings will be from October 24 through October 31. We will conclude our revival with all day services October 30 and 31. The Lovefeast service will be the evening of October 30. We desire your earnest prayer for these meetings.

A welcome to all who can come and be with us.

Sister Bertha Jarboe, Cor.

A CORRECTION

It has been brought to my attention that I gave credit to the wrong committee for finding the Torreon Mission Site.

Brethren D. W. Hostetler, Ord Strayer and Kyle Reed were the first ones on the Relief Board of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

Brethren Newton Jamison, Paul Byfield and Kyle Reed were the committee chosen to look for a site for a mission for the Dunkard Brethren Church. They met Ray Martindale quite by accident when they stopped to see some friends, Bro. and Sis. Reed had learned to know while on their work in China.

Again I will repeat as in my original notes that God had a guiding hand in locating Torreon for the Dunkard Brethren Church. Let us follow His guiding hand.

Sister Ruth Drake

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Act of Aug. 12, 1970: Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code). Showing the ownership, management, and circulation of The Bible Monitor, published semi-monthly at Wauseon, Ohio 43567, October 1, 1976.

1. The names and addresses of the editor, publishers, and owners are: EDITOR, Milton Cook, Apt. 3, 1309W Lynne Ave., Anaheim, Calif. 92802; PUBLISHER, Glanz Lithographing Company, Route 4, Box 70A, Wauseon, Ohio 43567; OWNER, Dunkard Brethren Church, Apt. 3, 1309W Lynne Ave., Anaheim, Calif. 92802.

2. There are no stockholders, bond holders or other security holders.

3. The average number of copies per issue distributed by mail and otherwise the previous twelve months was 1,166.

LITTLE THINGS

Springs are little things, but a source of great streams.

Nails are little things yet they hold great houses together.

Little acts are the elements of true greatness — they indicate character and destiny.

We are the only Bible
The careless world will read;
We are the sinner's gospel,
We are the scoffer's creed.

They are never alone that are accompanied by thoughts.

— Philip Sidney

If the heart does not go with the hand into the marriage vow there is danger awaiting the future.

DEATH NOTICE

Mrs. Prayer Meeting died recently at the First Neglected Church on Worldly Avenue. Born many years ago in the midst of great revivals, she was a strong healthy child, fed largely on testimonies and scripture holiness, soon growing into world wide fame, and was one of the most influential members of the church family.

For the past several years Sis. Prayer Meeting has been Failing in health, gradually wasting away until rendered helpless by stiffness of knees and coldness of heart, inactivity and weakness of purpose and willpower. At last she was but a shadow of her former self. Her last whispered words were inquiries concerning the strange absence of her loved ones, now absent from her presence, busy in the marts of trade and places of worldly amusements. Her older brother, Bro. Class Meeting has been dead for many years. Experts, including Dr. Works, Dr. Reform and Dr. Joiner disagreed as to the cause of her fatal illness, administering large doses of organization, socials, contests and drives but to no avail.

A post mortem showed that a deficiency of spiritual food coupled with lack of fasting, faith, heartfelt religion, shameless desertion, and non-support were the contributing causes.

Only a few were present at her death, sobbing over memories of her past beauty and power. Carefully selected pallbearers, were urged to tenderly bear her remains away, but failed to appear. There were no Flowers. Her favorite hymns "Amazing Grace" and "Rock of Ages" were not sung. Miss Ima Modern, rendered "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" but none had any Idea where this fancied Isle might be.

The body rests in beautiful cemetery of Bygone Glories, awaiting the summons from above.

In honor of her going, the church doors will be closed on Wednesday nights save on the third Wednesday of each month when the Ladies' Pink Lemonade Society serves refreshments to the members of the mens Handball team.

• • • ● • • •

Two modern enemies of today are, the exaltation of man and the elimination of God.

• • • ● • • •

There is no religion in dress, communion or baptism; but every one of these is true religion.

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV OCTOBER 15, 1976 NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

DAILY PRAYER

Once you knew the Savior dear,
To all His pleadings lent an ear,
  But now you've strayed away.
Once you dwelt within His love,
Held hopes of seeing Heav'n above,
  But now you've strayed away.

Why did you wander from His way,
And fall beneath the devil's sway
  Where all is strife and care?
Why have you met with sin's defeat?
Is it because you've failed to meet
  The Lord in daily prayer?

If you would have the Savior's best
And safely face each fiery test,
  Then meet Him each day.
If you would trust the Savior more,
And feast upon His blessings store,
  Then never fail to pray.

— Selected

POLITICS

The United States is in the midst of another Presidential Election year. There are many signs of political activity around us. There are many appeals for us not only to vote for certain candidates or issues but to be active in the political arena. We are urged to register so we can take part in the election. What do these appeals for activity, support and votes mean to the Christian? How will he respond?

The Christian is taught by the Bible to be a good citizen. Paul brings to mind our responsibility to live quiet and peaceable lives, obeying the laws of the land. We are to obey not only because of the physical power of the government but also for conscience's sake. We are to obey all laws not in direct opposition to the Word of God. Just as God placed the Church here for our spiritual benefit, He also placed government here to insure law and order. We should be thankful that the bulk of our laws are for our benefit, protecting our person and property.

God has ordained the political governmental for this task. The Church is not placed here to do these things or to tell the government how to run its affairs. The government is not ordained to operate in the spiritual realm. The two are not intended to be mixed any more than water with oil.

The government has set certain qualifications for those who would be voters. Age and citizenship are the primary qualifications that the would-be voter has to meet. The Christian has his citizenship in Heaven. He is a child of God. He is in the world but not of the world. He fails to meet the government's test of citizenship. As a "pilgrim and stranger" he is no more a citizen for voting purposes

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

than the immigrant who has only recently arrived upon these shores.

Politics is said to be "the art of the possible." The possible is brought about through compromise. Compromise can be good in many of our personal relationships and even at times in Church when methods not principles are involved. But the politician is always willing to compromise. He gives a little to get a little. The Christian can not nor dare not compromise his principles - the teaching of the Word of God. The Christian does not see compromise in Jesus nor in Paul. Peter and John rejoiced to suffer for Christ's sake rather than to quit preaching the Gospel.

To vote for a man is to support him and hold him up as being right. Yet how many men running for public office would be acceptable for an office in the Church? Their lives do not meet the test. Many of the leaders in this country are involved in ungodly, sinful activities. It would be hard therefore to choose one above another. When Christians vote for these men they are saying in effect that they are all right. This is holding up a double standard. It is better to stay away from the polls than to appear to be lowering your standards. Can a Christian in good conscience vote and put his stamp-of-approval on their ungodly activities.

Many offices in the government are designed so the man who holds the office must violate Gospel principles to fulfill his duty. Can we vote a man into office which would bar him from Christ and the Church at the same time? The offices of the government won in an election are not entered upon until an oath is taken. That would be the first thing to bar one from the Church. That oath requires a man to put the Constitution of the United States ahead of God's Word. Should a Christian by his vote put a man in that place?

The harshness and unholiness of a political campaign should drive the Christian away, lest he become filled with the partisan spirit. A man running for any, but the most insignificant, office must mount a campaign that includes television. How can a Christian support such a campaign when the instrument the Christian won't allow in his living room is used to drum-up support? It is not only the man but also his methods that are supported when we cast a vote for him. Can we be true to our Christian principles and still take a part in political affairs?

How can a Christian best serve his country? It is by living a quiet and peaceable life. It is by offering prayers in behalf of our leaders, not only that we might continue to enjoy the privileges we have known, but also for their personal safety and especially that they would seek Heavenly wisdom in guiding them in the affairs of state.

Do you plan to vote in the upcoming election? Will you be compromising your Christian principles? Seek God's direction before you let the political atmosphere around you cause you to lower your standard.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

VICTORY FOR ISRAEL

Numbers 21:17-35

Sometimes, people realize that God means just what He says! After Israel was delivered from the fiery serpents, the people obeyed God for awhile and God blessed them. They found plenty of water. One place they dug a well. Israel was happy and they composed and sang a song about the well of water.

They came to the country of the Amorites, whose king was named, Sihon. Sihon would not allow Israel to pass through his country, even though they promised that they wouldn't take of the fruit of the land or of their water but would stay on the king's highway till they were past the borders of the Amorites' land. Sihon was determined to fight Israel, so he went out in the wilderness to overcome them. He must have thought it would be easy to overcome them but he didn't reckon with God. Israel had been weak before because they had disobeyed God. Now, they realized their mistake and trusted God again and God was with them. "And they overcame Sihon and the Amorites and took their cities, even Heshbon, the city of Sihon the king."

Og of Bashan, was another great king. He came out to battle against Israel at a place called Edrei. The children of Israel must have feared this mighty giant. Deut. 3:11 tells of this man and says his bedstead was thirteen and one half feet long and six feet wide. This giant, Og, was ruler over sixty cities and had conquered much land. God said to Moses, "Fear him not: for I have delivered him into thy hand, and all his people, and his land; and you shall do to him as you did to Sihon, the king of the Amorites." The Bible says that Israel smote him and his sons and all his people, until there was no man left alive. And they possessed his land.

If we are true to God and obey Him, He will heip us to overcome. Victory can be ours. When we are weak, God can make us strong. Then we can say, like Paul, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

STOP USING THE BIBLE!

Stop using the Bible! Yes, that is what I said. You read it right. Can you imagine anyone saying that, who believes the Bible to be the word of God and who believes it is the Christian's guide for faith and practice? Yes - I said stop using the Bible!

The carpenter uses his tools to build a house. The gardener uses his tools to handle the soil. The meat cutter uses his tools to cut out

the desired cuts of meat. His tools are used to achieve his goals.

Isn't the Bible to be used too? Isn't it to be kept handy for use at any moment? Aren't Christians to have it ready to give an answer for the hope within us? Aren't ministers giving instructions to study and daily read the Bible?

Yes, the Bible itself urges that we read it. "Till I come, give attendance to reading." I Tim. 4:13. "Seek ye out of the book of the law and read." Isaiah 34:16. The Bible, itself, teaches that we should "study to shew thyself approved unto God." II Tim. 2:15. The Bible indicates that a righteous person will not only study the Bible, but will also "delight in the law", and will meditate in it "day and night." Psalms 1. The Bible teaches that all scripture is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." II Tim. 3:16. Ministers teach Bible reading and scriptural evidence backs up their teaching. How then could one say, "stop using the Bible?"

I'll explain why. Like the carpenter, the gardener, or the meat cutter uses his tools, so the Bible can become another tool we use to achieve our goals. Perhaps if we would examine and analyze our tool kit of life, we'd find Bible verses stuck around in various compartments for instant use. I see Christians using the Bible as a tool to shape out what they want. It is being used as a club, a whip, a chisel, a false face and a hide out - just to name a few. It is being used as a tool to achieve selfish goals and accomplishments. Bible verses are kept in the tool boxes of our mind ready for instant use in case someone crosses our path at the wrong crossing, or in the event someone needs to be chiseled down to size or whipped into place. In further explanation of what I mean, I'll call these verses "tool verses."

Tool verse one: I hear it quoted about as often for whipping someone as for admonishing one another. A well meaning person approaches a fellow Brother about a habit in his life that dishonors Jesus and is a disgrace to the Church. The offending Brother pulls his whip from the shield of Acts 5:29 and makes the application with full force. He replies, "We ought to obey God rather than men." He makes it clear, "I'm following God, you are following the impulses of man." He says this just as though he was obeying orders out of the sky from God. This verse is quoted out of context, with no reference to verses preceding or following. It is used as a tool to slap other persons.

Tool verse two: We'll call our fictitious character Tom. He has been watching the Sears catalog like a hawk. Since he has problems accepting himself anyway, he thinks maybe a new suit from Sears would put him across to his peers. At the point when he has about sold himself to everyone, this old conservative Brother with just a few gray hairs left on the back of his head, who has been talking of

stepping into the glory of Christ for years, challenges Tom about his sporty clothes. He questions Tom whether his new suit is bringing "glory to Jesus." Tom knows the scripture, John 3:16 and I Samuel 16:7. So he lets his elder Brother have the second verse from his memory tool chest, "Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord knoweth the heart." Tom forcefully explains you shouldn't judge by what you see. You need to know the heart. Tom brags how he laid the scripture to this old man and the old fellow didn't know what to say. The user of this scripture should remember man cannot know the heart except by what he observes. Only God knows without observing outward appearances. The way people sling it around at each other is a disgrace to God's Word.

Tool verse three: We'll call this ficticious Brother, Ben, who hadn't seen his old-time-friend for a long time. He drops by to renew acquaintance. Ben finds his friend stretched out in front of a television, deeply engrossed in football. A strange feeling goes over Ben as he wonders when his friend changed his mind about television in the home. They exchanged a few cold words past Ben's shocked feelings. Later Ben sees his friend at an auction and they get into a long conversation. Ben expresses his surprise and disappointment with his friend's new living room furnishing. Ben's friend lets him know in short order who is spiritual. He pulls out a chisel verse that has been kept sharp in the protective pouch of Matthew 7:1. Christ's own words, "Judge not that ye be not judged." So - Ben has been straightened out for judging. That night, while a commercial interrupts the sports, he lets out a loud laugh that shakes his overweight stomach like a bowl of jello as he tells his wife in the adjacent room how he told Ben off that day.

Tool verse four: Woman's role in the Church comes up for discussion. Should the Christian woman function in leadership such as a pastor and have an authoritive role over men? Is this the way God designed it to be? In discussions of these questions, those in favor "use" Galations 3:28 to set the issue straight. It is forcefully pointed out, "There is neither Jew nor Greek . . . there is neither male nor female; for all are one in Christ Jesus." I don't think it is fair to "use" this verse to prove a point on this subject. The chapter from which it is taken isn't teaching on gifts and functioning roles, but life in Christ. There is a difference in life of position in Christ and a performing role in leadership. Life in Christ - that's for everyone. But everyone cannot have the same role. Lets not "use" this verse to say what it isn't saying.

There are many more verses that are used for tools against others. I've tried to illustrate several of the most popular "used" verses, hoping you get the point. Theology teachers and students from both the liberal and the conservative camp have their favorite scriptures picked out to use against those with whom they disagree.

The result is devastating for either side as the damage destroys the quality of the verse user's spiritual life.

There are several points against the person who uses the scripture. First, it's a sign of immaturity. A maturing person will let the scripture use him. He will let the love message of the Bible flow out to others through his life of caring and concern. However, an immature person will use the scripture to cut others down.

Second, using the Bible prevents growth. To be truly Christ-like means we are open to let the scripture mold us into useful persons for Christ's kingdom. In order to grow, I accept the scripture as a message to me personally. I will not use it in argument but accept it for spiritual nourishment.

Third, the user is not willing to look at himself. He uses the scripture to defend himself and his actions and point out faults of others. Honest and growing Christians stop defending themselves and allow themselves to be taught by the scriptures.

Yes, I said stop using the Bible. However, I didn't say stop reading or studying the Bible. Nor did I say stop yielding to the Bible. The Bible is to be read, studied, and yielded to. The ministers' call to daily Bible reading is correct. The Bible's own call to be read should be heeded. It is to be read and applied to ourselves to bring out the best of quality and character in us. It is to be applied to our daily living to mold and shape us into Christ-like persons.

Oh God, in the quietness of this early morning hour, I think of so many verses that I have "used" in the past. Forgive me! Help me to clear out all the tool verses for use on others, and fill my mind with verses that you can use to mold me into the image of Christ Himself.

Simon Schrock
4614 Holly Ave., Fairfax, Virginia 22030

OUR NEED OF PRAYER IN OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE

In this twentieth century, I believe our spiritual poverty is due largely to the lack of prayer by each member of the Church. Prayer is the key that unlocks God's treasure house. I feel the Church needs more concecrated and dedicated lives today than ever before. We have so many more temptations and things to draw us away than the Early Church did. We live in an age when we depend too much on education. It is important but it has a way of taking our young people away from so many Church services. When we go to God in prayer I am sure the devil knows we go because we need strength and help from the Lord, so he brings all the opposition against us he can. We have often heard this saying, "Satan trembles when he sees the weakest saint upon his knees."

All the great men of God from the patriarchs on down to this present time have been men who spent much time in prayer. The

only way one learns to pray is by praying more and more. When God, today, calls us to pray, it seems one is tempted to keep on working. Pray like Elijah until the cloud is seen and like Jacob, all night at Peniel. When the Israelites had sinned and God was sorely displeased, Moses prayed forty days and nights that God would not destroy them. He interceded in behalf of a whole nation and God answered his prayer. Anna prayed with fasting and supplication. If we had more Annas, probably we would live longer. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." We should take Jesus as our example in all we do for He spent much time in prayer. I believe it was of more importance to Him than rest. The Bible tells us that in the morning a great while before day He rose up and went out and departed into the desert place and prayed. Again we see that Jesus felt it was more needful to pray than to sleep. Jesus said, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." We also read that Jesus taught them to pray. I don't find that He taught them how to preach.

It was while in prayer, the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost. It was at the hour of prayer that the lame man was healed. Peter's prayer raised Dorcas to life. It was when Cornelius prayed that the angel told him to send Peter. It was while Peter prayed that he got the vision which sent him to the Gentiles. While Paul was praying he saw Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him. It was when Ananias prayed that Saul received his sight and was filled with the Holy Ghost. I don't have any reason to wonder why Paul admonishes us to pray and to pray without ceasing.

If we are living that God-planned life, we need daily to come before the Throne of Grace and ask for His guidance to help us live as He would have us live. If we want to be a member and a worker in the Church, Christ has set up, then prayer is one of the greatest and noblest things we can do. Without it, we will fail to come close to the mark He has set up for each and every one.

Who in this day prays as Elijah prayed? Now when sin, depression, worldliness, pleasure-seeking above going to the house of prayer, Churches growing cold, so many seeking relief here, there and everywhere, why don't they try to pray for help from our Blessed Lord, the giver of every perfect gift? May the Holy Spirit breath upon us a real passion for prayer. The Church and our nation would then have a greater influence then has ever been felt before. Let us continue to pray for the Church and each member, so we will be able to walk closer to the Lord each day as we journey here below, until our time has come to depart and go to that Blessed Home, where all the Faithful dwell.

Sister E. M. Alltus
Modesto, California

STILL WATER RUNS DEEP

A small mountain stream foams and splashes over the rocks and crevices as it flows downward. As the stream widens and becomes deeper, it is more calm. Like the stream, to be calm in our souls requires depth in a spiritual way. A shallow, on-the-surface "spirituality" will not give us peace deep inside. It only causes us to be restless and to seek satisfaction in every way but the right way. To be still and calm deep inside requires heart-to-heart contact with God.

Many things in life change moment by moment, like the splashing and foaming of the little stream. There's nothing sure, nothing we can truly depend on, except God. His Word and His will for our lives never change. We can depend on Him to care when no one else does, to love us in spite of our faults even when no else does. We can depend on Him to see us safely through the problems we face, the temptations and destructive efforts of Satan. God has provided the anchor for our souls through Christ, and we can depend on Him for our natural needs also.

A little girl wanted her mother to hold her awhile. She was weary, but her mother was even more so, having recently attended her own mother's funeral. Little Maisie asked, "Mother, don't you want to be holded?" Mother started to cry, and Maisie then whispered, "Mother, God will hold you, won't He?" The mother, who had told her child how the Good Shepherd carried the little one in His arms, was rebuked and comforted. Maisie depended on her mother for comfort, and we can depend on God for comfort. His love provides the security we need to calm the storm within us and gives us courage to go on.

Because we have Someone to depend on, we can be calm in a way which baffles those who observe. God is glorified, when we are at peace deep inside, for people realize this calmness is not humanly possible. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isa. 26:3. God is trustworthy. If our minds are on Him, we will have His perfect peace.

We have hope of eternal life, but we also have hope now for an abundant life in Christ, for the blessings He has promised us that our joy might be full. See John 15:11. "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Matt. 21:22. "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:24. Jesus opened the avenue of prayer to us. It is a blessed privilege, and it gives us a wonderful feeling to know that when we pray, God actually will hear our plea for help.

Prayer is our innermost being in contact with God. Prayer gives life to our souls, and stability, when storms come. Through prayer, we can send an S.O.S. and God will respond. His help is available

anytime and a storm (a heartache, misfortune, or crisis) need not separate us from God's love and the security we have in it. Prayer is like the cable between the boat and the anchor; it is vital for our safety. Jesus does care whether we are safe or not, but remember, He did not calm the Sea of Galilee until the disciples cried out for help.

The Bible tells us how God met people's needs, often in extreme trials. To be truly victorious over their trials, these people had to communicate with God through prayer. Think of Noah, Abraham or Job; think of Paul and especially of Christ. Because God strengthened Christ and met His human needs, He was able to suffer and die for us and to rise again. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotton us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." I Peter 1:3.

"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." Rom. 15:4. "Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast . . ." Heb. 6:19a. This hope is our hope of eternal life through Christ, which God has promised to those who love and serve Him. In eternity, we know that the present heartaches will be gone. They are only a temporary thing, a part of time, and we can look beyond this to all that God has for us. By having something sure to fasten our eyes on, rather than the problems before us, we can be peaceful as a ship securely anchored in deep water.

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:7. If you are like the mountain stream, dashing here and there, never at rest, and you want God's peace instead, come to Jesus. When you have repented and been washed clean in His blood, then God will give you His peace. There are no words to describe it, but you will know it's there. When trials come, you will know they are there, but with Christ as your anchor, you will have hope for the outcome. As Job said, "When he giveth quietness, who then can make trouble?" Job 34:29a.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL

Did the Gospel begin on Pentecost, as some teach, or did it begin with Christ, while He was on earth. The ones who teach that the Gospel began on Pentecost, use as their proof text, Luke 24:47. That verse reads, "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

The way they use this verse, they make it sound like the Gospel did begin on Pentecost, after Christ ascended into Heaven.

The fact is that they take this verse completely out of its context, and by doing this, they make it teach something it doesn't teach. Let us go back to the forty-fourth verse and see what Jesus is talking about in this paragraph. "These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things." Luke 24:44-48.

This is after the resurrection of Christ, and the first thing He says to them in verse 44 is that all the scriptures must be fulfilled, and in verse 45 began to show to His Apostles that they had been fulfilled. Not that they were going to be fulfilled, but that they had been fulfilled.

First. The first scripture He brought to their minds was, "it behoved Christ to suffer,". His suffering is a fulfillment of Isaiah 53. Second. "and to rise from the dead the third day." Ps. 16:10, "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." So David foretold that Christ would rise again. Third. Now comes the forty-seventh verse. Was it prophesied that the Gospel would begin at Jerusalem? Isaiah 2:3 and Micah 4:2 read alike, "... and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." Notice the forty-eighth verse. Jesus said, "And ye are witnesses of these things." What were they witnesses of? 1. His suffering. 2. His resurrection. 3. That the Gospel had already been preached. Not that it was going to be preached, but that it had already been preached. Christ said they were witnesses that the Gospel had been preached.

Where did the Gospel begin? First verse of the first chapter of Mark reads, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Mark 1:14, "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God." Here Mark says the Gospel began to be preached by Jesus, after John was cast into prison. Going to Acts 10:37, ten years after Pentecost, we read, Peter talking, "That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached."

Here Peter says it began in Galilee, after the baptism that John preached. Mark says it began in Galilee, after the baptism that John preached. Christ told His Apostles that they were witnesses that it

had been preached. So there is no doubt that it was preached by Christ and His Apostles, before His death and not first on Pentecost.

Brother W. E. Bashor
867 Lorna Dr., Glen Ellen, Calif. 95442

GRADUATION

As we stop to think on this word, what do we think of? Most people think of someone finishing some type of schooling. There are other people who think of it as just a formality to get over with; some think of it as a commencement. Webster defines the word, "graduate", as to grant or receive an academic degree or diploma, to admit to a particular standing. So, we see that if we take these two thoughts and combine their definitions, we get something like this, "COMMENCE TO ADMIT TO A PARTICULAR STANDING." To me this means that we start a particular standing. As when we started our stand against the devil and became the children of God.

The main idea is that word "start" or "commence." If we just sit idle and let Satan have his way, we would never start. But we graduate from sin and make that start for the Lord, so this word means alot in the Christian walk of life. This word "commencement" also means a beginning. As Psalms 111:10 so aptly states it, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom . . ." Wisdom is what we need so we will believe on the Lord instead of letting Satan have his way with us.

We need a beginning for the Lord if we expect to receive a crown of glory. John 1:1 says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." It takes the wisdom that was spoken of in Psalms to read the Word and understand what we read. Through our understanding of the Word we grow. As a believer, young in the service of our Lord, we need the milk of the Word to help us grow, as it states in I Peter 2:2, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Then comes the time for a graduation to the higher or stronger meat of the Word. If we are sincere in our belief and growth, the meat of the Word is something that we need to really grow and work for our Precious Savior.

As we grow in Christ, there are several graduations or levels we achieve, till in the end we win a crown of glory. This will be our last graduation, going from mortality to immortality. Will we ever achieve this last graduation? If it isn't in service for the Lord, it just isn't a graduation — Satan has no degree of service. One start in the way of Satan is all one needs to slip all the way to the place reserved for Satan and his followers.

In Christian Fellowship,
Brother Orvis Smith
Quinter, Kansas

OBITUARY

MERVIN STUMP

Mervin Levi Stump, of R. 1, Union, Ohio, was born July 16, 1959 at Dayton, Ohio. He departed this life August 13, 1976 at the age of 17 years and 28 days. Mervin attended the Dunkard Brethren Church in Englewood all his life. He enjoyed his fellowship with the young people and all those he was in contact with, being a dependable willing worker.

Words cannot express the ways he will be missed in the home and surrounding neighborhood.

He is survived by parents, Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Stump, six sisters, Sis. Grace Reed, Myerstown, Pennsylvania, Sis. Shirley Frick, New Madison, Ohio, Sis. Anna, Ella, Marie and Laura at home; maternal grandfather, Bro. Ezra Beery, Union, Ohio, aunts, uncles, cousins and many friends.

Funeral services were conducted at the Englewood Dunkard Brethren Church on August 17, 1976 at 2:00 p.m. with Elder George Replogle and Elder Melvin Roesch officiating. Burial was at the Royal Oak Memorial Gardens with Bro. Fred Pifer conducting the service.

GOING HOME

Going home — a welcome thought,
To one who's traveled far
For home is where real joy and peace
And all the treasures are . . .

It's where the hands reach out to help
And words ring out to bless
And where the smiles are always warm
With love and tenderness . . .

But sweeter still is God's abode,
Beyond the starry dome.
Where spirits freed shall know indeed
The joy of — going home.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation and thanks to all the Brothers, Sisters, and friends for your prayers, cards, flowers, and expressions of sympathy during our sorrow in the loss of our dear Mervin. We can only thank you for the kindness shown — may God richly bless all of you.

The Family

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Lord willing, our Lovefeast will be Saturday, October 23, beginning at 10 a. m. Services will be held again at 2 p. m., with the Lovefeast at 7 p. m.

Pray for these services, that all who take part might receive a blessing and resolve to live closer to their Lord. May we all be in unity in the faith.

Sister Della Klepinger, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

We plan to have a revival meeting, November 10 to 21. Bro. Jacob Ness has consented to be our evangelist. The meeting will close with a Lovefeast on November 20.

If you cannot be with us in these services, pray that we might have a real spiritual revival.

Sister Ethel Whitmer, Cor.

FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

The Bible says, ". . . now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity (love)."

Faith can turn trials into triumphs —
Hope can change pessimism into power —
Love can transform frustration into forgiveness.

WHAT FILLED THE BASKETS?

The London "Christian Herald" tells the story of a teacher, evidently a modernist, who was telling her class of girls about the time when the Lord Jesus fed the multitude with five loaves and two fishes.

"Of course you will understand," she said, "it does not mean that Jesus actually fed all those thousands with a few loaves and fishes; that would have been impossible. It just means that He so fed the people with His teaching that they lost all sense of bodily hunger and went home satisfied."

"But, teacher," put in an inquiring girl, "what was it that filled the twelve baskets afterwards, then?"

A LITTLE GIRL'S LESSON

A father was very desirous of training his children to become true Christians. One day he over-heard his little daughter to make an unkind remark to a playmate. He called his daughter to him and said, "Did you ask your Heavenly Father with your heart that you might be kept from sin this morning, when you started this day?" She replied, "I did say a prayer, Papa, but I was late so I had to hurry." "And so offered only lip service?" the father asked. "No wonder you were left to fall into grievous sin, approaching the KING of kings with haste and irreverence that would be insulting to even an earthly monarch."

From MARTHA FINNLEY BOOKS
— selected by Sister Emma W. Stauffer

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER

Nov. 7 — Honor Turned to Desolation. Job. (29) 30:1-31.

Nov. 14 — Elihu is Angry at Job and His Three Friends. Job 32:1-22.

Nov. 21 — THANKSGIVING. Psalms 106:1-48.

Nov. 28 — Elihu Speaks on God's Behalf. Job 36:1-33 (37)

QUESTIONS:

(1) In Job's prosperity, had he helped the poor? Was he an enemy of the wicked? Job 29:16,17

(2) Why did Job's three friends finally give up trying to answer Job? Job 32:1.

(3) Why was Elihu angry with Job's three friends? Job 32:3

(4) When Israel forgot God and lusted after those things they had left behind in Egypt, God granted their requests for food and water. What effect did this have upon them? Psalms 106:14,15.

(5) Did Elihu believe that man could know God? Job 37:23.

(6) Did the Apostle Paul believe that man could know God? Phil. 3:10; I Cor. 2:9-11.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR NOVEMBER
COMFORT AND COMPASSION

Memory Verse, Ephesians 6:22
Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts.

Mon. 1 - Ephesians 6:1-24
Tues. 2 - Phil. 2:1-30
Wed. 3 - Col. 2:1-23
Thurs. 4 - Col. 4:1-18
Fri. 5 - I Thess. 2:1-20
Sat. 6 - I Thess. 3:1-13

Memory Verse, I Thess. 5:11
Wherefore comfort yourselves together, and edify one another, even as also ye do.

Sun. 7 - I Thess. 4:1-18
Mon. 8 - I Thess. 5:1-28
Tues. 9 - 2 Thess. 2:1-17
Wed. 10 - Exodus 2:1-25
Thurs. 11 - Deuteronomy 13:1-18
Fri. 12 - Deuteronomy 30:1-20
Sat. 13 - I Sam. 23:1-29

Memory Verse, 2 Chron. 36:15
And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place.

Sun. 14 - I Kings 8:22-53
Mon. 15 - 2 Kings 13:1-25
Tues. 16 - 2 Chronicles 30:1-27
Wed. 17 - 2 Chronicles 36:1-23
Thurs. 18 - Psalms 78:1-25
Fri. 19 - Psalms 78:26-51
Sat. 20 - Psalms 78:52-72

Memory Verse, Rev. 19:5
And a voice came out of the throne saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

Sun. 21 - Psalms 86:1-17
Mon. 22 - Psalms 111:1-10
Tues. 23 - Psalms 112:1-10
Wed. 24 - Psalms 145:1-21
Thurs. 25 - Psalms 100:1-5
Fri. 26 - Isaiah 49:1-26
Sat. 27 - Jeremiah 12:1-17

Memory Verse, Psalms 78:38
But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Sun. 28 - Lamentations 3:1-36
Mon. 29 - Micah 7:1-20
Tues. 30 - Zachariah 7:1-14

Memory Verse, Psalms 145:8
The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Zachariah 7:9
Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and shew mercy and compassion every man to his brother.

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV NOVEMBER 1, 1976 NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

OUR LOT

Often the clouds of deepest woe
  So sweet a message bear,
Dark though they seem, 'twere hard to find
  A frown of anger there.

Kind, loving is the hand that strikes
  However keen the smart;
If sorrow's discipline can chase
  One evil from the heart.

He was a man of sorrows—He
  Who loved and saved us thus;
And shall the world, that frowned on him,
  Wear only smiles for us?

No; we must follow in the path
  Our Lord and Savior run;
We must not find a resting place
  Where He we love had none.

—Selected from November 15, 1942
Bible Monitor

DOCTRINE

The word "doctrine" is offensive to many people. They do not desire to learn of doctrine nor have it preached from the pulpit. Their motto is, "preach about Jesus and salvation," or "speak on Christian living, leave doctrine alone." They believe it is unnecessary and unimportant. Can salvation or Christian living be preached without preaching doctrine?

Doctrine is usually associated in our thinking with the order and ordinances of the Church. In a broader sense, Christian doctrine is the whole body of teachings found in the New Testament. We could never learn of God's plan of salvation or of the kind of life that is pleasing to Him if we did not receive the teaching (doctrine) of His Word. Because of its importance in our Christian life, we need to heed and study doctrine, both in its broad and its narrow meaning.

Although many Church members consider doctrine to be of little value, God does not subscribe to their view. He shows the value He places on doctrine in II Timothy 3:16-17. Writing by the direction of God's Holy Spirit, Paul reminded Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." By knowing that the Bible is inspired of God we know that its purposes are very important to God.

Doctrine is important because of where it is found. It is embedded in the very fabric of the Bible. Because God gave place to these various teachings, they are important. He is the giver of every good

THE BIBLE MONITOR NOVEMBER 1, 1976

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Send all subscriptions and communications to the editor.

MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

and perfect gift. When we deal with Biblical doctrine, we are dealing with the Mind of God. We are investigating what He has given for our benefit.

Doctrine is for the unbeliever as well as for the Christian. The sinner needs a good dose of doctrine so he will know what is needed to become a Christian. Without doctrine, the infidel does not have a way to get right with the God who will judge him. With doctrine he can know he needs faith, repentance and baptism. He will not be left alone to go whatever way he might design for himself in the hope that it might be the right way. When the doctrine of the plan of salvation is preached in its entirety, he is not left in doubt concerning what is required of him.

The Christian needs doctrine in order to know how to live to please God. He can not know what activities will please God if there is no body of teaching to direct him. If he leaves the choice to his own feelngs, he may be led far astray as his feelings fluctuate. But a doctrine of Christian living will guide him into activities that will please God and prove beneficial to himself. By following this doctrine he will find himself being prepared for a home in Heaven. His good works will then draw the praise of God.

Paul would tell us that "all scripture is ... profitable for doctrine..." We believe the Bible is profitable. We can enumerate several ways that it brings gain into our Spiritual and our temporal life. Paul wants us to know it is profitable to us also as doctrine. He goes on to speak of other ways in which it is of value to us, "... for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Without its value as doctrine, these other purposes would be impossible to fulfill. Without doctrine's standard, there could be no reproof or correction or even instruction. We want to have our lives in accord with God's Will, so we must have doctrine set before us as a standard to measure our lives by, either to urge us on to higher ground or to rescue us from false ground.

Many, who find doctrine unattractive, consider the doctrine and commands of Christ and the Church to be harsh. They fear doctrine will prove to be too narrow and hard. The Apostle John says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." I John 5:3. We can speak much about demonstrating our love of God but the best demonstration is in the keeping of His Commandments (doctrine). Because the love of God is behind the keeping of these teachings, they will not seem harsh or narrow.

The foolish man built his house on the sand. He lived to please himself. He lived by his rules not God's doctrine. The wise man built upon the true foundation, the doctrine of God. Which one profited at the end of the storm? Which are you, wise or foolish?

BUT WE CAN PRAY!

Have you ever said, "I can't do anything but pray"? This implies that prayer is least, maybe not worthwhile, and if you could just do something, it would be more effective. Is this true? If prayer wasn't more than a last resort, do you think Jesus would have prayed all night or gotten up very early to pray? Do you think He would have told us to ask in His name, so our joy would be full? Prayer is an expression of our faith. Through it, we seek God's will and the release of His power to help us. It is a vital link with God.

Saul (Paul) was struck blind on the road to Damascus. He couldn't see and he couldn't do anything but pray. He put his whole heart into that prayer, for he neither ate nor drank for three days and nights. When Ananias received God's call to go to him, God said, "Behold he (Saul) prayeth." Saul had caused others to suffer; now he had to go through this suffering in order to get a new sense of direction. The time he spent in prayer was the beginning of a very dedicated life of service to the Lord. At the close, he said, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." II Tim. 4:7. Continual prayer and obeying God enabled him to keep the faith.

When Peter was put in prison, the Church prayed for him without ceasing. God moved in response to their long prayer vigil and sent an angel to release Peter. The saints could do nothing but pray, and they did it. Read Acts 12:3-17. Then they reacted like we do when God answers our prayers in an unusual way; they were astonished at God's response to their prayers. God's power is not limited, but our expectation often is. Even Peter thought he was having a dream, but when he realized what had happened, he shared the good news with those who were praying. When your prayers are answered, share it and rejoice!

Hannah, the mother of Samuel, prayed for a child which she promised to give back to God. She was much distressed because she didn't have a child, and her husband's other wife continually provoked her because of her childlessness. See I Sam. 1:6. Hannah could do nothing but take her need to the Lord and she did in an earnest, silent prayer. She evidently believed God for the answer, for I Sam. 1:18 says, "so the woman went her way, and did eat, and her countenance was no more sad." God gave her the son she had asked for, and when he was old enough, she brought him to the house of the Lord to live with Eli.

Sometimes a burden is so great that we feel only God will understand. There is no record that Hannah told others, not even her husband, of her request and vow to God. When the time came for Samuel to "abide before the Lord", Hannah rejoiced because she

had been blessed. She didn't know there was more to come. Eli pronounced a blessing upon Elkanah and Hannah for "the loan which is lent unto the Lord" and Hannah had five more children. By keeping her promise to God, she made it possible for God to give her much more than she had asked for.

David prayed much throughout his life. God said, "no" to the one for recovery of Bathsheba's child, but "yes" to many others. David's life was often in danger and he could not help himself. He took his need to God in prayer and received instruction and protection. David was not perfect, but remember — God answers prayers according to our needs and His riches, not according to our worthiness. "But my God shall supply all your need to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:19.

Solomon felt overwhelmed at being king over the multitude of God's chosen people. He asked God for wisdom so he would know how to rule as he should. He, as Hannah did, got more than he asked for, simply because he asked unselfishly. (I Kings 3:11-13). God blessed Solomon with abundant wisdom and riches in such measure that there would never be another like him. When we seek for the right things first, God will bless us. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

When you are "at the end of your rope", you can pray, not as a last resort, but as the true source of help. It is the best way to go and many times, prayer is the only way to obtain help for yourself or someone else. You should use this as a first resort, for it is the way of life, hope and peace. When you come to God with your requests, you can find peace as Hannah did, because you know God has the power to help you. Your helplessness will not hinder God. Just trust Him for every need.

It is so easy to keep God from moving by our own attitudes, such as, "Oh, if I could only say or do something!" Nothing we can do will ever have a greater effect than God's response to our prayers. He does not need our help to get the job done. When you get out of God's way and turn the matter over to Him, things will happen. There may not be anything we can do, but we can pray. So let's do it.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1,Pioneer, Ohio 43554

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There is a possibility of some people going to hell by stumbling over some inconsistent church member's life.

A MOUNTAIN TOP EXPERIENCE FOR THE LITITZ CHURCH

Sunday afternoon, September 19, Bro. Edward Johnson of Wauseon, Ohio gave the dedication sermon for the church house the Lititz Congregation had purchased from the Mennonites.

God blessed with a beautiful day. Dinner was served, cafeteria style, with tables set up outdoors. Three hundred partook of the bountiful dinner.

At 2:00 p.m., Bro. Howard Surbey of the Walnut Grove Congregation opened the dedication services using Hebrews 9:13-24. These few verses are a summary of the Old and New Testaments.

Bro. Johnson first emphasized the thought that all sacrifices, which God demanded to be offered in the temple, had to be clean.

This church being dedicated to God must also be clean. Its members must be consecrated. Numbers 7:10-11 tells of the offerings given by the princes at the dedication of the tabernacle, according to Gods commandments.

II Chronicles 5 tells of Solomon dedicating the temple and of all the treasures within and of how the temple was filled with the Glory of God. How well are we acquainted with the Holy Ghost?

II Chronicles 7 gives more of the history of Solomon dedicating the temple and of God's promise to sanctify the house. Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty-two thousand oxen and one hundred twenty thousand sheep but Christ made the supreme sacrifice when He gave His life on Calvary.

Our sacrifice is a humble and contrite heart. We owe reverence and respect to God's Church but we take too many things for granted. Mistakes are sins. The Church is no place for gossip. Satan can only enter the Church if we permit him to. God lives in our hearts, not in an empty church. You bought an empty building; Christ bought the Church. The influence of the Church in future years depends on your lives. In Romans 6:12-19 Paul gives the Romans the rules that will free them from the old law and give a new life under grace. We need to rededicate our own lives. Draw near to God and rededicate your own lives so we can make the Lititz Church stand-out in history in future years.

Bro. Ebling in closing said, "Do not worship the house but thank God for a place to meet Him. This building cannot worship Jesus, it must be us."

Sister Ruth Drake
Rt. 3, Box 312,
Manheim, Pennsylvania 17545

COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC

Lanier Henderson

In some circles, country and western music is the most popular music of our day, and it is no wonder. Most of the lyrics are about something that has happened, or about something the author wishes would happen in his life. Some are funny, some are serious, some are ridiculous, and some are sad. The songs express the thinking of a carnal mind. The writers know just how to play on the minds or emotions of the unsaved with their stories in song. But the awful truth is that this music not only affects the unsaved, but also many that name the Name of Jesus as their Savior seem to appreciate it.

The common nature of all men is to worship something or someone. Some worship money, some automobiles, some their homes and such, and a few worship the true and the living God. Today there are many who profess to be saved, but there is no change of heart nor change of their likes and dislikes. They still appreciate the music the world appreciates. II Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." This Scripture cannot be overlooked, not even if it goes against our will. God does not make us go against our will. He just makes us willing if we let Him.

Many of today's singers and writers of country and western music will add just enough mention of God to keep these so-called Christians thinking they are in the will of the Lord when they feed on this music. But Matthew 7:21a tells us, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven;" and this thought is continued through verse 29. Jesus is very clear on what will happen to us if we do not obey the commandments. Mentioning God does not make a lyric Christian.

When we spend our money and time on this kind of entertainment, we are saying that we approve of it one hundred per cent with no exceptions, so far as the world can see. Luke tells of this in 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Our treasures should not be the things of this world as Matthew tells us in 6:19, 20, "Lay not up for yourself treasures upon earth... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven." Matthew 6:21 confirms what Luke 12:34 says, in the same words.

What testimony will these singers (many of whom spend their nights in some club or bar while professing to be saved), have when they stand before a holy God? This thought should be given careful consideration by us as Christians before we say that we approve of

whatever they do in the line of their performance.

Perhaps as Christians we have not been paying enough attention to how others look upon our actions. May the Lord help each one of us to be more mindful of this fact. We should always be conscious that the devil is trying to defeat the Christians in any way possible. I Thessalonians 5:22 tells us that as Christians we should not do anything that would be contrary to the Word of God. "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

Selected from The Christian Example

Let us examine ourselves as professing Christians. Are we singing songs to God or to the devil? Are the words we sing profitable for our spiritual life or are they just empty, idle words? "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Matthew 12:36.

We have several scriptures in God's Word concerning the type of songs we should sing. "O sing unto the Lord a new song: shew forth his salvation from day to day." Psalms 96:1-2. "... Is any merry? let him sing psalms." James 5:13b. "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." Ephesians 5:18-19. Nothing is more blessed and uplifting than to sing songs to and about God. It satisfies the heart and soul and gives a feeling of joy and peace with God. I think most everyone who attended General Conference could truly say that the song services were indeed very soul filling and inspiring.

Let us think about the words of the poet: "If Jesus came to your house ... would you turn off your radio and hope he hadn't heard? Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out? Would you sing the songs you always sing ... and let him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed?"

May God help us, that we may set good Christian examples lest we cause someone to be lead astray from God. "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." I Timothy 4:12.

Sister Anna Stump
R.R. 1, Union, Ohio 45322

Grandparents with their spectacles on their foreheads and both eyes shut, oft-times see farther than some of their grandchildren with specks on their noses and both eyes open.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

THE DONKEY THAT TALKED

Numbers 22:1-33

Did you ever hear a donkey talk? I never did and I don't suppose you have either, but the Bible tells about one that did. A man named Balak was king of the Moabites. Balak was planning to fight the children of Israel and drive them out of the land. Because there were so many Israelites, Balak was afraid he could not overcome them. There was a prophet of God, named Balaam, in the land. Balak got the idea that if he could get Balaam to curse Israel, the Moabites would win the battle. So Balak sent important men of Moab to Balaam and they said, "Come now, I pray thee, and curse me this people for they are too mighty for me. I understand that he whom you bless is blessed and he whom you curse is cursed." The men whom Balak sent brought gifts to Balaam that he might be persuaded to curse Israel.

But Balaam knew that he could only do what God allowed, so he told the men of Moab, "Lodge here tonight and I will bring you word again, as the Lord shall speak unto me." And God said unto Balaam, "What men are these with thee?" Balaam answered God, "Balak the king of Moab sent men unto me asking me to curse Israel so that he may be able to overcome them and drive them out of the land." And God said unto Balaam, "Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed."

So Balaam told the men of Moab that God had refused to let him go with them. But Balak sent more honorable men back to Balaam with greater gifts and promised to promote him to great honor. What do you suppose Balaam did? He told the men to wait while he asked God about the situation again, hoping that God would change His mind. God told Balaam to go but that he should only speak the word that God would tell him. And Balaam rose up in the morning and saddled his donkey and started out for Moab.

God was very angry with Balaam for thinking that He would change His word. On the way an angel of the Lord stood in the road with a sword ready to strike. The donkey saw the angel and turned aside, out of the way. Balaam didn't see the angel and whipped the donkey and turned her back into the road. Soon they came to a place where the path was between a wall on either side. Again the angel was in the path and the donkey pushed against the wall and crushed Balaam's foot. Balaam was getting more impatient and he whipped the donkey again. Then the angel stood in a narrow place where there was no room to turn away, when the donkey saw the

angel she fell down under Balaam. Now Balaam really got angry and he hit the donkey with his staff. While Balaam was beating the donkey a strange thing happened. The Lord opened the donkey's mouth and she said to Balaam, "What have I done to you, that you have hit me these three times?" Balaam was so angry he didn't realize what had happened and talked right back to the donkey, "Because you have mocked me: I wish there were a sword in my hand, for now I would kill you." And the donkey said to Balaam, "Am I not thine ass, upon which you have ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? Did I ever do anything like this before?" And Balaam answered, "No."

Then the Lord opened the eyes of Balaam and he saw the angel standing with his sword. The angel told Balaam that if it hadn't been for his faithful donkey that he would surely have killed him.

Does God mean what He says? I am sure we all know that He does. May we always take God at His word and never question it or desire God to change. God always knows best.

Brother Rudy Cover

MIZPAH

You go your way, and I go mine, apart,
  Yet not afar;
Only a thin veil hangs between the pathways,
  Where we are.
And God keep watch between you and me,
  This is my prayer,
He looks your way and He looks mine,
  And keeps us near.

I know not where your road may lie,
  Nor which way mine will be;
If mine shall be through parching sands,
  Or yours beside the sea;
Yet God keeps watch between you and me,
  So never fear,
He holds your hand, He still holds mine,
  And keeps us near.

Though our paths be separate,
  And your way is not mine,
Yet coming to the Mercy Seat,
  My soul shall meet with thine.
God keep watch between you and me,
  I'll whisper there,
He blesses you, He blesses me,
  And we are near.

—Author unknown
Selected by Sister Edyth Kline

STONES

Stones are mentioned in the Bible many times, from Genesis to Revelation. They were used as markers to commemorate special places and events: such as the time that Jacob dreamed and saw the angels ascending and descending a ladder from earth to heaven. Gen. 28:11-22. He took the stone he had used for a pillow and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on it. He said, "Surely the Lord is in this place; and I knew it not." He called the place Bethel. Twenty years later, when he left Laban, his father-in-law, Jacob took up a stone and set up another pillar. And Laban said, "This heap is a witness between me and thee this day." It was called Mizpah, meaning "the Lord watch between me and thee, when we are absent one from another." This thought is often used when loved ones part, even today.

The Law was given to Moses, written on tables of stone. Exodus 32:18. Deuteronomy 27:2, "And it shall be on the day when ye shall pass over Jordan unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, that thou shalt set thee up great stones, and plaister them with plaister." Verse 6, "Thou shalt build the altar of the Lord thy God of whole stones ..."

In Ezekial we read about stony hearts. They have to be changed before God can use them. "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh." Even as the altar must be built with whole stones, so the Lord wants the whole heart for his Temple. Deut. 6:5, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." Ye are the temple of God. I Cor. 3:16-17, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of

God is holy, which temple ye are."

When built on the foundation, Jesus Christ, precious stones are a part of the material used. I Cor. 3:11-12. Jesus Christ is called the corner stone. Eph. 2:20, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone."

"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house..." to those of us "... which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient ... a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence." I Peter 2:5.

The mill-stone is referred to by Jesus. Take heed! that you offend not one of these little ones. Matt. 18:6, "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."

So much is written about stones in the Bible, I can't begin to tell of all of them. I will mention just a few more. David would not use the armour that Saul equipped him with, for he said he had not proved it. When he went to slay Goliath he took five smooth stones from the brook. I Samuel 17:40.

John tells us, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcómeth will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receive it." Rev. 2:17.

John was carried away in the Spirit to a great mountain where he was shown the Holy City coming out of heaven from God. It shone with the Glory of God. It was like a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. What a sight to behold! The foundations of the walls of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. Rev. 21:1. And once again the scene was changed. The new earth seemed to be there. I saw the Holy City beside the tideless sea; the light of God was on it's streets, the gates were open wide, and all who would might enter, and no one was denied. No need of moon or stars by night, or sun to shine by day. It was the New Jerusalem that would not pass away.

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of Life, and may enter in through the gates into THE City." Rev. 22:14.

Sister Edyth Kline
11313 El Pomar Ave.
Waterford, California 95386

OBITUARY

ZELLA CARROLL

On May 25, 1884, a daughter, Zella May Higgins, was born to William Jackson and Sarah E. Higgins in Jay County, near Muncie, Indiana. In 1888 the family moved to Tennessee. She grew to womanhood and was married to Luther B. Carroll on December 24, 1902. In 1916 the family moved to California. Friends and relatives helped them celebrate their Golden Wedding in 1952 at Ceres, California. This marriage continued until the passing of the husband in 1964, making 62 years of sharing life together. She passed away in Sacramento, California, September 12, 1976.

Six children were born to this union. Four girls survive: Clovie, Bessie, Ruth and Alice. There are five grandchildren, seven great grandchildren, and four great, great grandchildren. For a number of years there were five generations living in Sacramento. Three foster children and their children as well as adopted grandchildren were all accepted as part of the family.

In 1904 Zella accepted Christ and was baptized into the Church of the Brethren, of which she was a faithful member until 1945 when she affiliated with the Dunkard Brethren Church at Ceres. She not only shared our Lord as a Church member but as a friend and a neighbor to those in need. "The poor you have with you always and when you will you can do them good," she often said.

Her family could count on her steadfast love and strength of character. She had courage in meeting whatever was to be done. One of her joys was gardening. In her yard she raised both vegetables and flowers, which she liked to share. In her homemaking she canned fruits and vegetables, sewed and kept house until illness prevented this. She often went into her garden at the end of the day for a greater realization of the presence of God. Her satisfaction in life came from her trust in God, Church fellowship, family ties, friendship and helpfulness, and the rewards of accomplishing her goals. She did a great deal with what she had and enjoyed work. We thank you and bless you, Mother, for giving so much of yourself to us all.

Funeral services were conducted in Sacramento on September 15, 1976 by Elder Ora Skiles and Elder Hayes Reed. Burial at Live Oak Cemetery, Live Oak, California.

The Family

We give something to every one we meet, either good or evil.

NEWS ITEMS

A REMINDER

We would like to drop a reminder to those of our readers who contemplate changing their address. Please give us sufficient notice, at least a month, if possible. Postal regulations have recently changed. Now we must pay 25¢ rather than the 10¢ of the past for each returned copy. This also means you will lose that issue.

Editor

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation enjoyed two weeks of revival meetings from August 29 through September 12. Elder Joseph Flora was the evangelist. Bro. Flora preached the Word. We were made to rejoice when two of our young people gave their hearts to the Lord.

Lovefeast services were held September 11. In the evening, seventy-four surrounded the Lord's table with Bro. Flora officiating. Visiting ministers present were: Elder Joseph Flora, Elder Melvin Roesch, Elder Harley Flory and Elder George Replogle.

We were happy to have Sister Flora with us during these meetings.

We thank all who came to hear the messages and fellowship with us. We invite any who can, to come worship with us at any time.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

On August 15, Bro. John Peffer of Carlisle, Pennsylvania began a week's revival, during which time he preached nine Spirit-filled messages. Saturday P.M., thirty-five surrounded the Table of the Lord with Bro. Peffer officiating. We were glad for the visitors from the Lititz, Bethel, Mechanicsburg, Dayton, and Broadwater Congregations during the meetings. Although there were no new additions to the Church at this time, much good seed has been sown. We pray that God will bless it, and that it will bring forth a hundred fold in the harvest.

We were glad to have Bro. Allen Eberly and family of Ephrata, Pennsylvania and Bro. and Sis. Edwin Stauffer and family with us September 5. Bro. Eberly preached an inspiring message to a goodly number after which we enjoyed the noon fellowship meal and afternoon together at Bro. Dwight Snyder's home.

Please pray for the Church at Swallow Falls and come worship with us. We need the prayers and the encouragement of dedicated workers of the Lord here.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

SOUTH FULTON, ILLINOIS

We, the South Fulton Congregation, have much to be thankful for as we have just experienced a most memorable Love Feast over Labor Day week-end. The Lord did lay the desire on Brethren and Sisters' hearts to commune with us so there were twenty-three Sisters and eleven Brothers surrounding the Communion tables Saturday evening with Elder Ray Reed officiating. Elders Roy Swihart, George Replogle and Ray Reed gave us much food for thought. Elder Replogle gave the examination sermon, Saturday afternoon.

Our Sunday attendance was fifty-seven, a record list of visitors for our small, regular attendance of eight. Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New Mexico were represented. Words cannot express our appreciation of your attendance, prayers, help in any way. There is nothing to compare with sweet fellowship of the Christian and friends we have learned to love. We think we have joy and happiness, but are we satisfied with our way of life? Perhaps not, but our hearts have become hardened and perhaps eyes blinded. The Christian has a hope to meet again.May we remember our friends and loved ones in prayer, although they seem indifferent.

We are grateful for your fellowship and Christian Love. May God bless you for your presence and the prayers of those unable to be with us. The Lord knows our weaknesses, heartaches and burdens of life which we bear. May we all remember one another in our prayers. May God add His blessings.

Sister Martha I. Harman, Cor.

Many Christians might have had a call for special service for the Lord, had they been within calling distance.

Don't spend your time borrowing trouble. There will always be enough on hand to supply you.

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Paul R. Myers
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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV NOVEMBER 15, 1976 NO. 22

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS, AND SCATTER

We plough the fields, and scatter The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered By God's almighty hand;
He sends the snow in winter, The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, And soft refreshing rain.

He only is the Maker Of all things near and far;
He paints the wayside flower, He lights the evening star;
The winds and waves obey Him, By Him the birds are fed;
Much more to us, His children, He gives our daily bread.

We thank Thee, then, O Father, For all things bright and good,
The seedtime and the harvest, Our life, our health, our food:
No gifts have we to offer, For all Thy love imparts,
But that which Thou desirest, Our humble, thankful hearts.

— Matthias Claudius

HARVEST

The harvest is about complete for this year. The crops which were put in the ground last Spring or even before, have now matured and produced their bountiful harvest. Much labor and concern have been lavished upon these crops. Now the harvest is over. Whatever has been brought in from the field is the extent of the harvest. There will be no more this year.

Now is the time for the offering of thanks for the harvest. We have a poor opinion of the man who receives many favors from our hand yet forgets to say, "thank you." How must God feel when we consider the blessings that come from Him and yet mankind as a whole is forgetful to offer thanks unto Him? It is not only the harvest that should call forth our praises but all of our blessings, both temporal and Spiritual. Thanksgiving Day has been set aside for this purpose, though its true purpose is generally ignored. Whether we stop and observe this particular day or not, we should every day let our praises rise to our Heavenly Father. We can not be counted as a thankful people if only one day out of three hundred and sixty five is the extent of our thankfulness.

How great is your harvest this year? Although we are not all farmers we all have made investments, we all have labored with hand and brain and we all have had some sort of a goal. Have you had a good year economically? Although riches and a life of ease may have eluded you, you still have fared better than most in this world. Have you been thankful unto the Giver of every good and perfect gift? Many who are truly poor would shame us by their truly

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

thankful spirit. We who have more are apt to praise our own strength or cunning for our success. When we are blessed with a little, economically, we are prone to want more, instead of giving thanks to God for what He has given us.

How great has the harvest of Spiritual things been in your life this year? None of us stand still. We either progress or regress in our Spiritual lives. Has this been a year of growth for you? Has this year marked the putting aside of the "milk of the word" and the taking up of the "meat of the word"? Have you found greater joy in meeting with those of "like precious faith"? Have you developed a greater trust in your Heavenly Father? Have you secured greater pleasure in doing His commandments, doing them not from compulsion but from love? If these things have come into your Spiritual life this year, you have truly had a great harvest. If they have not been a part of your harvest, then why not sow the seeds now that will bring forth this kind of harvest next year?

All of us are headed for a harvest time. This harvest does not repeat itself year after year. It will be final. When God sends forth His reapers, there will be no more time for the planting or maturing of the grain. There will be no opportunity for the tares to be converted into wheat. "As the tree falls, so shall it lie." When we consider this coming harvest day, it should draw forth our thanks. We should be thankful that there is One who knows the tares from the wheat. We should especially be thankful that this One, who could have condemned all as being worthless like weeds, has provided a way so we can be gathered as the good grain.

Are you prepared for your harvest day? The farmer makes various preparations for the harvest. He has to get his equipment ready. He has to watch the appearance of the grain. He has to keep an eye on the weather. God is ready and able to make the harvest at anytime, but is the grain ready? Does the grain appear to be fully mature? Being prepared for God's harvest day has nothing to do with age or the number of years in the Church. He knows when the grain is ripe.

On the other hand He also knows when the grain becomes infested with disease. To prevent the spread of the infectious malady it might be necessary to destroy the diseased grain. What kind of grain are you? Are you healthy, maturing grain? Or are you sickly and worthless?

Perhaps you are still a part of the weed crop. If so make use of the provision God has made so you can be a part of the good grain. He sent His Son for you to believe and follow so you could be pleasing grain to Him. If you are a part of the stunted, sickly grain crop, get rejuvenated be reading His Word, praying and following His commands. If you are a part of the maturing, profitable grain, do not

grow weary waiting for the harvest. Continue to thank Him. Continue to serve Him. Are you ready for the harvest?

THANKSGIVING

D. M. CLICK

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Mal. 3:10.

When we consider the great crops of fruit of various kinds and also the bountiful farm crops which our farmers have reaped from fields here in Grand Valley, Colo., we most surely realize that the Giver of all good has really poured a great blessing upon our people in this part of the United States, and I fear that the greater part of our citizens don't seem to realize that God is giving us all these rich crops to enjoy; they don't even respect the Lord's Day as a day of rest, neither do they attend religious services, but the greater part of our population work the same on Sunday as other days.

I have wondered if the Giver of all good would withhold their bountiful crops for a few years, if they would stop their worldly sinful ways and turn to the Lord, and ask Him to return His rich blessings to them again.

Jesus said unto His disciples, "Ye are the salt of the earth." We do thank our loving Savior for the great blessings that is so richly bestowed upon this section of His heritage. God's people are the light of the world. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

We are so very thankful that Jesus will gratefully receive little gifts when sincerely and humbly presented. Dear brethren and sisters, I do believe we can all do as well, as did the "poor widow," and if done in the same spiritual desire to help build up the dear Savior's cause, and to help the poor and needy I feel quite sure our small offerings will meet his approval.

We find a splendid rule for Christian giving in the New Testament, "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him, that there may be no gatherings when I come." I Cor. 16:2. The Apostle Paul was a great teacher, not only in one special subject, but in the whole Christian life's work both temporal and spiritual work. Paul makes this further reference to giving: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."

My dear brethren and sisters let us not only give our dollars and cents for the building up of the cause of Jesus, but give our lives, our daily activities, our words, our daily appearance before the world.

"If any serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am there shall also my servant be: If any man serve Me, him will My Father honor." John 12:26.

Selected from November 15, 1937
Bible Monitor

HE PROMISED NEVER TO LEAVE ME ALONE

At times we may feel that we are lonely and no one cares. Jesus often spent time, when without human companionship, to talk to God and receive strength. John 16:32 says, "Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me." God knows, understands and is concerned about our needs. Best of all, He is able to supply a special blessing for each particular need.

We, as women "alone", sometimes fear the evils of the world about us and worry about our safety. I believe this is wrong because it shows a lack of trust in God. There are many promises such as the one in Hebrews 13:5, 6, "... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." A woman, properly veiled, has "... power on her head because of the angels." I Corinthians 11:10.

I am not advising us to tempt God by going places where He cannot bless our presence. Neither should we take foolish chances. Christ sent the Comforter to be our Guide and constant Companion.

This children's song is a good reminder:

Why worry when you can pray?
Trust Jesus, He'll be your stay;
Don't be a "doubting Thomas."
Rest fully on His promise.
Why worry, worry, worry, worry, when you can pray?

Jesus is only a prayer away. He is the best Friend we could ever have.

Sister Edith Moss
Box 13, Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

Much good can be done if you are unconcerned who gets the credit.

A SINNER'S THANKSGIVING

Luke 15:11-32

"The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican." Luke 18:11. The Pharisee thanked God, but he really didn't know what it meant to be thankful. He had never allowed Jesus to cleanse his heart, and Jesus said, "... but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little." Luke 7:47b. Love and appreciation go together, and in order to truly love and be thankful, we must experience the power of God's love in our hearts.

There was a young man who didn't know what it meant to be thankful or to appreciate all he had, but he learned. He had a good home, but he wasn't satisfied. He wanted to get out on his own and have a good time, so he asked his father to give him his portion of the estate. Shortly after receiving his share, he left home and went to a far country. He had alot of fun throwing his money around but soon it was gone and the good times were over.

This young man, known to us as the Prodigal Son, wasn't at all concerned until his money was gone and a famine came. The Bible says "... he began to be in want." He was beginning to feel his need, but it wasn't enough yet to send him back home. He got a job feeding swine; soon even the hog feed looked good. He was friendless now and no one gave him anything. All his "good-time pals" had deserted him and his need was really pressing on his mind.

"... When he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!" Every sinner must come to himself as this young man did. He must realize he is destitute and ready to perish, not naturally, but spiritually. He must realize that our Heavenly Father is the only one who can supply our needs. This realization makes it possible for us to receive what is needed, for we can't be helped until we know we need it. The Prodigal Son knew he must have help or he would perish. Now he must seek it.

"I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants." He fully realized that he had done wrong and was willing to be just a servant, if only he could be accepted by his father. Can you imagine the thoughts in his mind as he walked toward home? He had no friends now; what if his father didn't want him either? He was returning in humility, but he had no way of knowing whether his father would accept or reject him.

A warm welcome awaited him, complete with the best to wear and the best to eat. How wonderful it must have seemed when his father saw him coming when he was a great way off and ran to meet him! After a warm embrace, he confessed to his father of how he had sinned, but his father responded by giving orders for a special celebration. He was to have the best robe, a ring and shoes, and the meal was to be extra good. What a homecoming and what a Thanksgiving Day they had! He who had lived so recklessly in sin, who had been lost, was now found and there was rejoicing in his father's house.

There was one sad note to it all. The older son became angry and would not join in the celebration. His father came out to plead with him, but he couldn't see why his father was rejoicing over the return of such a disobedient son. Are we ever like the older son? When one returns to the fold, do we remain skeptical and find fault? Does God have to plead with us to forgive and to join in the rejoicing? Or does compassion flow from our hearts as it did from the heart of this father?

The father apparently recognized something that his elder son did not. The disobedient son had done an about-face; he had repented and he was through with his old life of sin and self-indulgence. He was ready now to begin a new life in service to his father. We don't know whether the elder son ever did join in the celebration, but we do know that the rest of the household rejoiced. If you have sinned and repented, and yet there is one who refuses to forgive you, don't be discouraged. Go on your way rejoicing; God and His faithful servants will rejoice with you.

Luke 8:26-40 tells the story of a man who had long been devil-possessed. Chains could not hold him; he wore no clothes and his home was in the tombs. He had no peace at all. Jesus commanded the devils to come out of the man, then permitted them to enter a herd of swine. The swine went wild and drowned in the nearby lake. The people were afraid because they didn't understand until this man, now in his right mind, published all over the city that Jesus had done for him. He shared his "thanksgiving day" with others, as the prodigal son did, and his testimony led others to gladly receive Jesus.

Thanksgiving Day is a time to thank God, especially for salvation. It is a time to share with others. Are you thankful enough for Jesus to tell others of the day you repented and rejoiced in your new-found salvation? When you see the anguish in someone's soul, share Jesus with him, so he, too, can have a Sinner's Thanksgiving — one that lasts for now and eternity. "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." II Cor. 9:15.

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

SOUTH FULTON

"OUR DUTY"
Romans 12
A sermon by Elder Walter Bird

"... Present your bodies a living sacrifice..." He does not expect anything unreasonable. We should be willing to do it, for God has done so many things for us that we could not do for ourselves. He is willing to help us. It is our weakness that makes us doubt. It is our duty to present our bodies.

What is a LIVING sacrifice? Christ living in us.

Old Testament sacrifices are all dead. Our New Testament sacrifice is a living sacrifice — Christ in our hearts. Galatians 2:20, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." A Living sacrifice! If we have God's Spirit we are ALIVE.

"... Be not conformed to this world..." This is not a change of substance but of the quality of the soul. When we accept Christ we are renewed in mind and spirit. If we consider His loving kindness we will do the perfect and acceptable will of God.

We need to be careful of our thoughts to keep them from wandering. We need to hold to the Word and apply it to our lives. But if we do only what we must do, we don't do His will very well, do we?

The things we did before we accepted God we do away with in our new life. The transformer on the electric light pole has to change the electricity from thousands of volts down to hundreds to be usable in individual homes. The outside of the transformer doesn't change but the process on the inside changes. Like the transformer of electricity we must change by renewing our mind so God can use our life.

There are hinderances.

Paul said what he would do he did not, and what he would not, that he did. We always have to keep out of Satan's way. We should not let Satan mold us in his image. It takes terrific pressure and heat to make a mold. We do not want to be in Satan's mold but rather transformed into God's image. We need to be vigilant.

If one attends worldly amusements and adopts the fashions and the expressions of the world, can we not see his heart and mind are not transformed in God's Spirit? "By their fruits shall ye know them." Those of the world feel ill at ease with Christians.

We have a duty to ourselves also. Verse 3 of Romans 12 tells us not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think. Sometimes we do. I don't think we should, yet if we think too meanly of

ourselves we reduce the Grace of God in us. We should not think that what we can't do, no one else can. This is a product of pride. It takes time to discover we are not as important as we thought. We each have a responsibility to do something for God. We need to consider our capabilities. God didn't put us here for our pleasure but to know Christ and to draw others to Him.

The sin of our foreparents is the cause of world conditions. Now, to be useful in God's service, we must be transformed. Satan enticed Adam and Eve to know "good and evil." The lust of the eye and pride of life is still our downfall. Pride is a great evil. It is good to be wise but bad to THINK we are. God does not want us to be proud but humble and meek like Moses, willing to listen to His voice.

One sin Moses paid dearly for — he smote the rock instead of speaking to it as God told him to do. He was denied entrance into Canaan. It points out our need to be ever guarded — to not step in the wrong way.

Exodus 34:29-35. Moses was on Mount Sinai talking with God. When he returned to give the commandments to the children of Israel, the skin of his face shone, but Moses did not realize his face shone. We also should not be proud of any Divine gift that we have. Others may have the same gift, perhaps in greater measure than we have. Pride is despicable in the eyes of God. He does many things to humble us. We all have been in that position.

Christ was given the Spirit WITHOUT measure; we were given Him BY measure. I'm sure we would all like a greater degree of the Divine Spirit. I believe all Christians have His spirit according to the space we allow Him in our heart. We can get a greater measure by acceptance of His Word and Will.

Each of us is responsible to use the gift God gave us. We are members one of another and being many are one body in Christ. There are seven complete gifts — prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, ruling, mercy and love. Mercy with cheerfulness. You may say you can't prophesy, minister to or teach. To "minister" could mean serving tables as those men chosen in Acts 6:1-8 or to visit the poor. Exhorting and giving with simplicity. There are not many of us who can not give with simplicity. We all can show mercy with kindness. It is as valuable to us as it is to others. We are duty bound to use our gifts.

In Romans 12:10 we have a special duty to our brethren — to be kindly affectioned to them with brotherly love and in honor preferring one another. This means a kindly love, one that is likened to a free love — love that we do not need to work at. An example is the love of parent to child that comes freely and naturally. It is a great comfort to us that we can love one another, worship and study

and build one another up in faith.

"In honor preferring one another" is sometimes used as an excuse to get out of work. We are not to feel we can do a work better than anyone else can or to beg off the duties the Heavenly Father wants us to do for the Church.

We are to be respectful, obedient and willing. We are to esteem others better than ourselves. Saints need this love. We should remember those in need. How much love do we have for our Brother if we do not help him when he needs help?

"Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep." Do we rejoice at someone else's good fortune? Quite often it is jealousy and this should not be true of a Christian. We should rejoice with those who have good fortune.

We are all members of Christ and one another and are to be of the sme mind in a united love and unity of spirit. If we are not united, there are divisions that should not be in the Church of God. We should keep our interest up and learn more of God's way — not just one day of the week — but every day of our life.

"... Condescend to men of low estate..." We must be willing to associate with those of low estate and if it be possible to be at peace with all men. We know sometimes it is difficult to get along with other people. The world looks down on humble people, but as long as an humble Christian knows he is following God, he need not fear the scorn of anyone.

We have spoken of our duty of God, our brethren, ourselves. We have a duty also to our enemies, Because our enemies regard us as the off-scouring of all things, God's people have paid dearly, sometimes, with their lives. If it should come to us, could we die with a song on our lips as some of the early Christian martyrs died?

We need to be rooted and grounded in faith so that nothing can shake our faith when we know we are right. Stand fast in the Christian doctrine. The Christian way is to return good for evil. Paul says, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves..." We are not to feel harsh to those who mistreat us.

We know Satan will tempt us and try us. The world may not love us but many people of the world will respect us when they see our belief. They may despise us and take advantage of us, yet it is God who will avenge.

If we have enemies we should speak good of them and wish them well. That may draw them closer to Christianity. It takes courage to give good for evil. We need to be desirous of this courage because one day the Son will come.

Paul said perilous times will come when evil men shall wax worse and worse. I believe we are living in that time now. II Tim. 4:3b,

"...after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." These are indications of the nearness of Christs coming. Another sign is Israel going back to their own land. When we see prophecy taking place we need to be prepared so that we will not be left in this wicked world.

Sister Elta K. Blythe
822 W. Calhoun, Macomb, Illinois

WAYS

Many people, nowadays, seem to think that there are many ways to Heaven, just as there are many ways to New York or Chicago. I do not understand God's Word that way, for He says, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 14:6. This should show us plainly that it is only through our Faith in Jesus and our obedience to His Word that we can have any hope of spending a never-ending eternity with Him.

Again we read in Matt. 7:13-14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." I note that in the Greek the word "strait" has several meanings, some of them are: anguish, distress, close, or to be constrained. So it is plain to see that entering this strait gate is not as easy as many might think. I believe the reason for this is pretty well summed up in the 14th verse. He also tells us that the way is narrow. If we try to walk in a narrow path we can not carry too much of the world with us. He also says that only a few find it, perhaps the reason for that is that far too many are looking for a way where they can carry all these worldly things with them.

In Luke 13:24, we find the Lord Jesus saying these words, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." According to the Hebrew, we find that to strive means to use force — no half-hearted way will do. It also means to agonize or plead. We really have to mean it if we want to get on that narrow way and stay on it. Let us then do as the Eunuch did, get on this narrow way and go rejoicing.

Now, as the Word makes it plain, there are only two ways and they go in opposite directions and to two entirely different places of eternal abode. One to eternal bliss and glory. The other to eternal punishment, agony and remembrance of the warnings we have had from the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Remembrance may be one of the greatest punishments for those who end up in the

Lake of Fire. May we all walk in His will and watch for His soon coming.

Let us all take the Apostle Peter's advice in II Peter 3:17-18.

In Christian Love
Brother Willard Beam

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

ISRAEL IS BLESSED

Numbers 22:34-41, 23, 24

Balaam was a prophet of God after Israel entered the Promised Land. He desired to be great and have riches, honor and praise of men. It caused him to disobey God. After Balaam's donkey had talked with him and the angel appeared, Balaam said unto the angel, "I have sinned; for I knew not that you stood in the way against me. Now if you are displeased with me, I will go back."

Although God was displeased with Balaam, He had told Balaam to go, so the angel said, "Go with the men, but only the word that I shall speak unto you, shall you speak." So Balaam went on with the princes of Balak. When they arrived in Moab, Balak went out to meet him and wondered why Balaam hadn't come in the first place and said, "Am I not able to promote thee to honor?"

By this time Balaam was beginning to wish he had never come. He said to Balak, "Lo, I am come unto you but I have no power of my own to say anything. Only what God puts in my mouth shall I speak."

Balak wanted Israel cursed. That was all he could think of. He took Balaam to the top of one of the high places of Baal. (Baal was an idol that the Moabites worshipped.) From this place they could look out over the land and could see the larger part of the camp of Israel. Balaam and Balak offered sacrifices to the Lord on seven altars. And God told Balaam what to say and Balaam blessed Israel. This didn't suit Balak at all and he said to Balaam, "What have you done to me? I took you to curse mine enemies and behold, you have blessed them altogether."

Balak wasn't about to give up. He must have been a stubborn man. He took Balaam to the top of Mt. Pisgah and here they offered sacrifices again. And God met Balaam and this time Balaam repeated God's words to Balak and said, "God is not a man, that He should lie. Behold, I have received commandment to bless; and He hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it." Then Balak said, "Neither curse them at all; nor bless them at all."

Still Balak was not to be stopped and he took Balaam to Mt. Peor and again they built seven altars and sacrificed to God. This time the answer was enough to stop even Balak. You can read of the blessing of Israel in Numbers 24. At the end of the blessing, Balaam said about Israel, "Blessed is he that blesseth thee and cursed is he that curseth thee." Balak was very angry with Balaam but Balaam reminded him that he told him that he could only speak the words that God gave him to speak. Then the word of the Lord came unto Balaam and he prophesied even more about Israel finally overrunning and utterly destroying Moab.

No one — not even a prophet or a king — can cause God to curse a people that He promised to bless. Israel under Joshua had obeyed God and God blessed them abundantly. Only when they disobeyed could God cease to bless. If we are true to God, He will bless us too and give us a home in Heaven.

Brother Rudy Cover

There is a legend about two angels sent to the earth to gather the prayers of God's people. One had a basket marked "petitions", and the other "thanksgivings."

One returned to the Father's house with his basket piled high with innumerable requests. The other arrived with a sad face and a weary spirit. His basket was almost empty.

"Where is the gratitude of my people?" the angel was asked. "Be merciful, Lord," the angel replied. "There's a holiday on earth called Thanksgiving. Many had planned a trip, crowds went to the games, and after the big meal of the day, the others were too sleepy to give thanks."

—selected by Sister Emma W. Stauffer

Fish for no compliments: they are usually found in shallow water.

That person proves his worth who can make us want to listen when he is around and think when he is gone.

Character is not born in a crisis it is only revealed.

HEAVEN

How beautiful Heaven must be!
Prepared there for you and for me,
The Word of God tells us, you see.
Here's a picture of beauty to me:

The glowing walls are built four-square
Of jasper, rare jewels and stones;
Garnished and shining everywhere.
What a beautiful Heavenly Home!

It's a city with streets of pure gold,
As sparkling as crystal or glass:
What a beautiful sight to behold,
When our life here on earth is all past.

Pure waters of life there are flowing.
The cool, gentle river runs by
As the streams of clear waters are glowing,
And will never, no never go dry.

God's light will be shining forever.
The sun never sets over there;
Where darkness or night will not sever
Those who have all these joys to share.

The sweet fields are covered with living green,
And the tree of life's growing so fair
Never-with'ring flowers all around will be seen.
What a beautiful sight over there!

Heav'nly angels will sweetly be singing
As they touch their bright, shining harps.
The sweet chords will softly be ringing
As the melodies flow from the start.

There'll be no death, sorrow or tears.
Former things will be all passed away.
No more sickness, suffering or childish fears -
All will be gone in the new, glorious day.

When our lives here on earth are no more
And our trials have ended at last.
May we meet on that beautiful shore
And rejoice with the saints of the past.

Sister Karen E. Heisey
9946 U.S. Route 36
Bradford, Ohio 45308

NEWS ITEM

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

Walnut Grove's revival meeting in June was well attended. Elder Paul Reed from Riner, Virginia had many uplifting messages from God's Holy Word.

August 28 was our council meeting. All business was taken care of in a Christian manner. James Kegerreis was re-elected as our presiding Elder. While the Brethren were present they took the voice of the Church for the office of a deacon. Two deacons were elected. Bro. John Cease and Bro. Harold Musselman were duly installed and their wives were received with them. May the members uphold the work of the Church at this place in prayer that God's will be done and souls might yet be saved while there is still time.

We enjoyed another Lovefeast, the first Sunday of October. We appreciated all the visitors who attended these services and invite them back again. Ministers present through-out the day were: James Kegerreis, Joshua Rice, Frank Shaffer, John Peffer and Jacob Ness, who officiated at the Lovefeast and Communion Service in the evening.

Sister Betty Shelly, Cor.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER

Dec. 5 — God Answers Job. Job 38:1-41 (39).
Dec. 12 — "Behold I Am Vile." Job 40:1-24 (41).
Dec. 19 — THE BIRTH OF JESUS. Matt. 1:18-25; 2:1-16.
Dec. 26 — God Restores Job. Job 42:1-17.

QUESTIONS:

(1) What did Job finally get that he asked for? Job 38:1.
(2) How did Job appear to himself in the sight of God? Job 40:4.
(3) What did Job know about God? Job 42:2.
(4) Had Job finally understood the things that he had spoken of to his friends? Job 42:3.
(5) How did God compare Job with Eliphaz and his two friends? Job 42:7.
(6) What did Job do for his friends? Job 42:10.

Wisdom consists of knowing what to do with what you know.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR DECEMBER 1976
COMPASSION AND CONDEMNATION

Memory Verse, Math. 9:36
But when he saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Wed. 1 - Math. 9:14-38
Thur. 2 - Math. 14:14-36
Fri. 3 - Math. 15:10-39
Sat. 4 - Math. 18:10-35

Memory Verse, I Pet. 3:8
Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

Sun. 5 - Math. 20:17-34
Mon. 6 - Mark 1:21-45
Tues. 7 - Mark 5:1-20
Wed. 8 - Mark 6:30-56
Thur. 9 - Mark 8:1-26
Fri. 10 - Mark 9:1-29
Sat. 11 - Luke 7:1-30

Memory Verse, I John 3:17
But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Sun. 12 - Luke 10:17-42
Mon. 13 - Luke 15:11-32
Tues. 14 - Rom. 9:1-33
Wed. 15 - Heb. 5:1-14
Thur. 16 - Heb. 10:16-39
Fri. 17 - I Pet. 3:1-22
Sat. 18 - I John 3:1-24

Memory Verse, Isa. 9:6
For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Sun. 19 - Isa. 9:1-21
Mon. 20 - Jude 1-25
Tues. 21 - I Kings 8:12-32
Wed. 22 - II Chron. 36:1-23
Thur. 23 - Job 9:1-35
Fri. 24 - Job 10:1-22
Sat. 25 - Luke 2:1-20

Memory Verse, Job 9:20
If I justify myself, Mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.

Sun. 26 - Job 15:1-35
Mon. 27 - Job 32:1-22
Tues. 28 - Job 34:1-37
Wed. 29 - Job 40:1-24
Thur. 30 - Psa. 94:1-23
Fri. 31 - Psa. 109:1-31

Memory Verses, Job 32:3
Also against his three friends was his wrath kindled, because they had found no answer, and yet had condemned Job.

Job 40:8
Wilt thou also disannul my judgment? wilt thou condemn me, that thou mayest be righteous?

Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV DECEMBER 1, 1976 NO. 23

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.	OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

GIVE UP?

Give up because the cross is heavy,
  Sink down in weakness 'neath its load?
Give up and say you can't endure it,
  Too rough, too toilsome is the road?
Ah, no; rejoice you have a cross
  You earn your right a crown to wear.

Give up while there is still in heaven,
  A God who notes the sparrow's fall?
Give up when He so longs to help you,
  But only wants to hear you call?
He clothes the lilies, feeds the birds;
  Would He to you, then, pay less heed?
Look up to Him with prayerful heart,
  He will supply your every need.

- Brother David Ebling

IDOLATRY

Even though we live in a supposedly enlightened age, idolatry is very prevalent. Idolatry takes many forms and ensnares all classes, ages and conditions of people. Idolatry flourishes not only in the dark, backward and pagan areas of this world but also in the "modern" nations. In fact, idolatry may be strongest where wealth and education is the greatest.

Idolatry is not only the worship of gods hewn out of wood, stone or metal. Idolatry is the worship of anything that interferes with the true worship of the God of Heaven. The object of worship may be either good or bad. The use made of that object is the important thing. We would say quickly that the wooden, stone or metal gods of the heathen are bad. But would we as quickly agree that education, culture or even our own families were bad, if they interfered with our true worship of God? The first of The Ten Commandments is "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." God is a jealous God. He does not want us to worship anything that deprives Him of the worship He deserves.

The saddest part of idolatry is that it is not confined to the world but has crept into the professing Christian Church. We could expect idolatry to flourish in the world. Satan is the god of the world. He was the first to rise in rebellion against God. His object was to be equal with God so he could receive the worship of mankind. He was the first idol. All idols which have been worshipped since are from him. He is pleased when someone will worship anything but God. No matter how grotesque, worthless or silly, the object might be,

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

Satan's purpose is fulfilled when worship is taken from the God of Heaven and lavished upon these various objects.

People go to Church today to worship but how much of that worship is lavished upon the God of Heaven and His Son, the Saviour? It would seem more attention is given to the stained-glass windows, the choir's renditions, the pipe organ and the decoration of building, than to the worship of God. Is this not idolatry even within the Church? Besides the material objects which are worshipped, the worship of mere men is encouraged. The hirelings who fill the pulpits are pampered and adored, at least as long as they continue to tickle ears, scratch backs and let the sheep mix with the wolves. The ideas and accomplishments of man are lifted up for the worship of the crowd. The knowledge of scholars is placed ahead of God's Word and, in fact, is often used to disprove and disparge the Bible. Idolatry has come into the professing Church through the worship of "Saints" and the "Virgin Mary."

Even during the earthly ministry of Jesus, there was a hint of the worship of His mother. "And it came to pass, as he spake these things a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked." Luke 11:27. What was a hint then has become a flood-tide of idolatry today. Mary has become the center of worship for untold numbers of people in place of God and Jesus. Prayers are offered unto her as if she were God. This is idolatry. Mary, herself, spoke of being not a goddess but a "handmaid of the Lord." She was willing to be used for the task God had appointed for her. The answer Jesus gave to the woman who hinted at worshipping Mary showed He did not intend for His earthly mother to receive praise and adoration belonging to God. "But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it." The honor due Mary is the same due to any godly woman who seeks to serve Him the best she can. The same blessing is available for all who will "hear the word, and keep it." To hear the Word of God would mean to understand that God alone is worthy of our worship. If we exalt Him as we should then we should be willing to follow the commands He has given us in His Word.

Idolatry not only pulls down the person who is deluded enough to worship someone or something other than God, but it also darkens the witness of the True Church. The professing Churches which promote idolatry in the name of religion, gain a notoriety that often hinders the work of Christ's Church. Those watching from outside are mislead concerning the teachings of the New Testament or they are driven away by the unholy works allowed in the professing, but false, Churches.

Is there anything in your life or your Church that hinders the worship God expects from you? Is He the center of your worship or is there a home, an automobile, a relative or some desire that is your object of worship? God wants you to worship Him.

CHILDREN'S PAGE

A NEW LEADER FOR ISRAEL

Numbers 27:12-23

Moses had been the leader, chosen by God, for Israel. He had served Israel well for forty years. God told Moses that he was about to die as Aaron, his brother, had. Before he went to be with God, Moses was to consecrate Joshua to be Israel's new leader. Moses did as God commanded and took Joshua before Eleazer, the high priest, and before all the people of Israel. The priest laid his hands on Joshua and gave him a charge as the Lord commanded by the hand of Moses.

What a ceremony this must have been! The children of Israel were almost ready to cross the Jordan river and enter the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We don't know how many people were there but we do know that there were about three million that left Egypt and there were probably that many and maybe more. That is alot of people. We cannot realize how much these people depended on God to feed, clothe and protect them in a wilderness that was mostly dry and rocky, a place where it would have been impossible to produce enough food for so many. But God took care of them. They often rebelled and complained against Him and God punished them many times - but yet He was merciful and blessed them.

Joshua was eighty-five when he became leader of Israel. Israel had a book of the law that Moses had given them. I suppose it was the first five books of the Bible that Moses wrote. Do you know what they are? After Moses died, Joshua was told by God to go over the River Jordan into the land that God would give them. God said to Joshua, "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

What a lesson for us today! Sometimes, it seems like we are so weak and we are fearful of the things we see around us. God doesn't want us to be this way. Paul tells us in the book of Hebrews that the Lord said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." "If God be for us, who can be against us." Rom. 8:31.

Brother Rudy Cover

DON'T WAIT TO BE ASKED

When you see someone in need, do you wait to be asked before you offer any help? Sometimes people have a great need and won't ask, because they think no one cares and it wouldn't do any good anyhow. Your efforts to help may seem worthless to you, but just to know you care and share their burden often helps more than the assistance you can give. You may not be aware enough of other's feelings to know when you are needed, but Jesus is aware of everyone's needs, both in the heart and on the outside. He will give you this awareness if you want it, so you won't need to wait until you are asked.

Our works are a testimony to mankind; if we just sit around and wait to be asked, we won't have a good testimony. Worse yet, is to deliberately avoid helping someone because "he knows better, so he can just help himself" or "if I do help, it won't be appreciated, so I won't do it." Such an attitude only proves that we don't care enough. "But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?" I John 3:17. When you lack compassion, you also lack God's love.

When a person has a physical need and a spiritual need also, you must meet the physical need first. A hungry person will not listen to any talk about Jesus and His love, unless you first manifest that love by feeding him. It might be your next-door neighbor who has a need, or possibly someone in your family. If you, a believer, don't care enough to help without being asked, who will? When someone is spiritually sick, do you care enough to tell him about the only remedy, Jesus Christ? Or will you wait to be asked?

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10. Our first responsibility is to other believers, but this does not exclude unbelievers. Even if you must go out of your way to help someone, you will never be sorry. Whatever you give will come back someway, sometime, in a blessing you aren't expecting. It might be as simple a deed as being kind to someone old and feeble or helping someone who is handicapped, but it is worth the bit of effort it takes. The Christian's life is based on a self-sacrificing love, which seeks the good of others even if you must do without. This love wants to give to all who need.

"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." Matt. 25:35-36. Will Jesus be able to say this of you?

The righteous people who did these good deeds didn't realize that it was as if they had done them unto Christ. They had done it because their hearts were full of compassion and they knew help was needed. They were blessed with eternal life, but those who ignored other's needs received everlasting punishment. They had only pretended to serve Christ.

Peter and John once met a lame man at the Temple gate. He asked Peter and John for a gift, but he got much more than he asked for. Peter said, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee." Acts 3:6. Peter couldn't give the healing this man needed, but he knew Jesus could, and he didn't hestitate to offer this man the best. It was a much greater blessing than the few pennies the man expected. "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Peter helped him up, and this man began to walk and leap and praise the Lord. For a man who had never walked, this was too good to keep. You can't heal people, but you can give the best you have. There's no blessing in giving your leftovers.

The Samaritan didn't wait to be asked before he helped the wounded man lying by the roadside. The man was half-dead and couldn't ask for help, yet it was badly needed. The Samaritan had compassion on him and took care of him, while the religious men passed him by. He didn't mind going out of his way to provide extra care for the helpless man. You may never meet up with a situation like this, but if you love your neighbor as yourself, you will still do what's best for those you do meet. "... Comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men." I Thess. 5:14. It is easy to do some great deed, but don't forget: it's most often the little deeds, the little kindnesses that really show you care.

Jesus gave us His best and He didn't wait to be asked. He gave His life so that we can be saved. It is through Him that we are given a pure heart, then because of what He has given us, we have something to give to others. Christ gives us the love and compassion needed to carry out His commands, including helping those who cannot help themselves. Doing good deeds can't save you, but when you give your heart to Jesus, the good deeds will follow. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor." Rom. 13:10b. Instead, true, God-given love plans for his neighbors' good. Look around and see what you can do. Don't just wait to be asked!

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

Most of us know how to say nothing — few of us when.

TROUBLES AND TRIALS

The Book of Job is a story of a man and his troubles. We are living in a world full of troubles. Job said in one place, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble." No one is free from the troubles and trials of this life. We'd like to consider these troubles and trials to see why they come, how we should face them and how we can be benefited by them.

We all have all heard the saying - "God works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform." One of these ways is through the trials of life. We think of the affliction of the children of Israel and the terrible charge that Pharaoh made, that all the baby boys should be cast into the river. Out of this affliction, God lifted up a leader to deliver His people. We know the story of Moses, how he was raised and educated in Pharaoh's house. Moses had the opportunity for great wealth, fame and authority, but, we find he remembered God. In Hebrews 11:25 we find Moses, "choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season."

Joseph was another man who had a rough life. Joseph, because his father favored him, was hated and mistreated by his brothers, who finally sold him into Egypt. After refusing to fall to the temptation of Potiphar's wife he was thrown into prison. Though under undeserved persecution, Joseph still trusted God; God didn't forget him.

We find that while Joseph was in prison, Pharaoh dreamed two dreams that troubled him greatly. The butler (whose dream Joseph had earlier interpreted) remembered how the power of God worked through him. By interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh, Joseph was made ruler in the land and placed in charge of gathering food for the famine to come. When Joseph's brethren came to him to buy food he didn't blame them for how they had treated him but rather gave God credit for what had happened. "And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So not it was not you that sent me hither, but God." Gen. 45:7-8b. So God, through the affliction of Joseph worked one of His great wonders. It was through Joseph's troubles that God made a way to preserve that chosen family and His chosen people.

In II Corinthians 12, we find a very fitting story about the Apostle Paul. We find Paul had been taken up into the third heaven. There in paradise he heard unspeakable words, not lawful for a man to utter. In verse 7 he says that he was given a thorn in the flesh, lest he should be exalted and pride come into his life. Satan sent this thorn

to buffet him but God used it for a good purpose.

As we go on in this chapter we see another blessing in affliction. This pain brought Paul to prayer not only once but three times. Trials many times come to get us on our knees and make us realize our dependance on the God of Heaven. The answer Paul received is one we should remember each time the trials of life are pressing us down. "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Verse 9. If we can only remember that God has promised we won't be tempted above that which we are able to bear, but will provide a way of escape, then even during our trials we can see "light at the end of the tunnel." The fiery darts that Satan hurls at you are painful and hard to bear, but never forget if Satan isn't buffeting you, it's because he is satisfied with your life; he has you where he wants you.

We know that the first trouble and sorrow that man experienced was because of sin. It's still with us for that reason today. The Bible would have us to understand that some of the suffering man experiences is because of his own personal sin. I Cor. 11:29-30. This doesn't mean that all suffering is the result of one's own sins. Job is one who suffered, not because of his own sin, but to prove that the devil is a liar and the Word of God is truth.

The story of Lazarus in John 11 tells of another reason for suffering - that God may be glorified. Jesus could have arrived in Bethany before Lazarus died. It would have saved Mary and Martha and other loved ones the grief that comes with death. But Jesus had a better plan. By the death of Lazarus, Jesus had the opportunity to perform a miracle in the presence of many people. Here, through the suffering of a few, many believed on Jesus because of the miracle He performed.

Another type of suffering we experience is the chastisement of the Lord. "For whom the Lord loveth he chaseneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Heb. 12:6. Just as godly parents in love correct their children, so the Lord must chasten His children when they get out of line. Just as it hurts parents to use the rod of correction, so it hurts God to send the chastening rod to us. Yet, both do it to have the obedient children they desire. Chastening doesn't come because God is angry with us, but to show us we have errored, and to get us back into His loving favor. Testing also comes to us to temper and refine our lives so we can be used of God. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold." Job 23:10. Sometimes it takes the heat of trial for God to bend us to His perfect will.

We can be sure we are going to have to suffer in this life - the Bible tells us so. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall

suffer persecution." II Tim. 3:12. If we are going to suffer, why not take it as God would desire and benefit from it.

We can despise our chastisement, but by doing this we not only suffer mentally and physically but also are hurt spiritually. Why not take it like Paul did in II Cor. 12 and be blessed by it. "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong." If we can get self out of the way and let God have His way, then we can have strength through Him and be used by Him for our benefit and His glory.

Our attitude in the hour of trouble will determine whether we receive or lose the blessing God intends for us. Let us have faith in the hour of trial that God meant what He said in Isaiah 43:2, "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee..." When the heat of trial is heavy upon us, may we think like Job in chapter 1:21b, "the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." If in the hour of affliction we can look beyond the pain and stress of the present moment into the future like Jesus in Heb. 12:2, we'll have a reward. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

If we remain true till the end, we'll be numbered with those in Rev. 7:14 who will be arrayed in robes of white. "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, these are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." The faithful have this promise that in Heaven, "... God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away." Rev. 21:4.

God help us to endure to the end.

THANK YOU FOR THE VALLEY

Thank you for the valley I walked through today
The darker the valley the more I learn to pray
I found you where the lillies were blooming by the way
And I thank you for the valley I walked through today.

Life can't be all sunshine or the flowers would die
The rivers would be deserts, all barren and dry.
Life can't be all blessings or there'd be no need to pray,
So I thank you for the valley I walked through today.

Chorus:
Thank you for every hill I climbed
For every time the sun didn't shine
Thank you for every lonely night
I prayed till I knew everything was alright
Then I thank you for the valley I walked through today.

Brother Jim Meyers
Torreon Mission

WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?

During our daily duties of life we meet up with many people, who have different attitudes in life. Is it possible to tell which ones have entered a church house door, or which ones believe in God, or which ones grew up in a home with Bible-believing-parents? With the things that the eye sees these days, it really makes us wonder just who is on the Lord's side. Who will be the faithful ones when our work here on earth is done?

Many times we, as a Christian people, tend to do things that would attract the attention of our neighbors, even though it is not in the order of our beloved Church. Can you imagine what would go through the neighbor's mind? It has been said by many ministers holding meetings in our hearts, "we are our neighbor's Bible"; in other words, the neighbors see our actions and know right away what we believe. Should not this make us want to walk more holy and upright before God and be on His side? Wouldn't we rather have the assurance of life eternal instead of being on the opposite side where there will be a terrible eternity?

We think back to the account of Noah. God went to Noah and told him He was going to destroy the earth. God told Noah how to build the ark and that it would rain upon the earth. Notice that Noah was on the Lord's side and did as God commanded. Many, I believe, made fun of him and scoffed at him while Noah built the ark, but Noah held out true and faithful. When the rain did come, only Noah and his household were saved. God shut the door. Genesis 7:16. The rest of the people perished in the flood. I believe many who were outside the ark realized where their doom would be. I can hear many shouting, "Lord save us!" And so it will be in the end of time if we are not ready when the Lord comes. Genesis 6:8-9, "... Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord." Verse 9 "... Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God." We can be like Noah if we are a child of God and are on the Lord's side.

It is the time of year when school is starting over the land. Some have accepted Christ as their personal Savior this year. It will be

hard to face all your friends that you have learned to know through the years. Many of the friends you had, will turn away from you and be friends no more. Others will mock, scorn, ridicule and say evil things against you, but just remember you have ONE GREAT FRIEND - GOD, who can bear your burdens and carry your load at this trying time. I write this from experience, and even yet, I think of the times when I had hard times too. It certainly is a test of faith, and it is wonderful when we win the victory. So keep pressing onward and upward, always taking one day at a time, for we know not what tomorrow will bring.

The Apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 3:14, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Whether in our spiritual progress as believers or in our service for the Lord, we must constantly grow upward. There are many souls to be won and much work to be done.

Ne'er think the victory won,
Nor lay thine armor down;
Thy arduous work will not be done,
Till thou obtain thy crown.

Let us each examine our hearts and see which side we are on.

DO YOU "JUST BELONG"?

Are you an active member,
the kind that would be missed -
Or are you quite content
that your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings
and mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home
to criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
to help the work along -
Or are you quite will satisfied
to only just belong?

Do you ever take a stand
for things you think are right -
Or leave the work to just a few
and talk instead of fight?

Think it over, member;
you know what's right and wrong -
Are you an active member,
or do you "just belong"?

With Love and Concern,
Sister Shirley Frick
1577 St. Rt. 121
New Madison, Ohio 45346

OUR PRAYER LIFE

As a Christian people, we should be a praying people. BUT do we really rely upon our prayers to our Savior as we should? What does prayer mean to us? Do we pray as we should? How should we pray? What is PRAYER?

By definition, Prayer, is a request, petition, supplication to God, in the name of CHRIST, by direction of the Holy Spirit, or with the Holy Spirit's help. Do we let the Holy Spirit direct our prayers, or do we try to bypass the Holy Spirit? If we do not go through the Spirit, are our prayers valid?

What do we consider as our prayer life? Is it the time when we want something we do not have the strength to do or bring about? Is it the time when we bring trouble upon ourselves which we do not know how to deal with? Is this the time when we call upon the Lord to help us? Do we wait for something to happen before we pray? If we do, why?

We do not need to bring ourselves to such a low estate before coming to our SAVIOR in prayer. I Thess. 5:17 tells us to, "pray without ceasing." To me this is talking to God about everything that is happening to us every day. If something is bothering me, I like to sit and talk it over with my Savior. He puts in my heart "the pro and the con" as to what will or will not happen.

We can talk to our Savior with out asking for something. We can breath a prayer of thanksgiving or we can just stop and say, "thank you." We really need not make a request every time we pray.

Yet our Savior makes it very easy for us. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." Also we are told that if we come to our Savior in secret, He will reward us openly. Matt. 6:6.

When we do come to our Heavenly Father in prayer, do we stop and think of what we are going to ask for. It doesn't need to be a long prayer. The man who was being crucified, when Jesus was, said, "Remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." This was

short and to the point, but it carried him a long way. For the Savior answered him right there, saying, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Isn't it wonderful to know that if we give more thought to our prayer life, it will help us gain a Home in Heaven - that we will be in that Paradise with our Savior? Some people may live without a prayer life, but they will never be able to gain a Home in Heaven without it. Wouldn't it be a hard life if we couldn't cast some of our burden on our Lord through prayer?

Do we ever stop to think of how many types of prayer there are? There is prayer of confession, which is one of the first prayers we utter before giving our hearts to our God. This is the starting point of our prayer life. We make intercession for forgiveness of our sins. Then we have a prayer of thanksgiving, when our sins are forgiven. Then comes one which, I feel, is the most important. It is a prayer of adoration. How many times do we pray a prayer of adoration? This is a prayer wholly in praise of our Lord and our God. Daniel 4:34-35 tells us that Nebuchaduezzer lifted his eyes to Heaven and gave a prayer of adoration to the Most High. Do we, as Christian people, praise and honor our God with this type of prayer? Or do we offer only a prayer of supplication or intercession?

We are told in James 5:16 that the fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. We are also cautioned not to ask amiss when we pray. We, a praying people, are told we should say, "if it be the Lord's will" that our petitions might be granted. For the Lord knows that we have need of before we ask. That which we need, we are to ask for and we shall receive. Matt. 21:22.

To make our prayer life a power working for us, we must believe, trust and have faith in our Father, that He will make it happen. There are times when it seems the Lord doesn't answer our prayers. It may be a "NO" answer, but it is still an answer, whether we like it or not.

If we, a Christian people, rely upon the Holy Spirit to guide us in our prayer life, our "NO" answers will be far and few between. Most of our "NO" answers come from asking amiss and wanting something that isn't the Lord's will. Some little foolish something that wouldn't help our soul's salvation.

Why is it that when we get a "NO" answer from God we don't want to accept it as the final answer? Even if we do get a few "NO" answers from our Savior, we shouldn't stop praying. There are always prayers of thanksgiving and adoration which are to be offered.

Think over your request before you ask, ask with the help of the Holy Spirit, ask through our Lord Jesus in faith believing and it will surprise you at all the "YES" answers that you get. How much faith do we put into prayer? Do we believe that every request we ask of

God will be answered "YES"? When we come with the right attitude in our hearts and relying upon the Holy Spirit's guidance, the answer will be "YES".

May the Lord bless and keep you all faithful, is my prayer.

In Christian Fellowship
Brother Orvis Smith

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL CONFERENCE MINUTES IN ONE VOLUME

The General Conference minutes of the Dunkard Brethren Church have been compiled in one volume. The price of this volume is $4.25 plus postage. It is available from each member of the Publication Board. It is further suggested that congregations may want to order as a group to save postage.

FEBRUARY 1ST ISSUE

All additions, deletions or corrections to the Ministerial or the Deacon's lists which have not been reported before, should be in the hands of the Editor by January 1st. Also any other changes for the February 1st issue should be reported.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The time of year is here when the bulk of our subscribers renew their subscriptions. When renewing your subscription, think of your family, neighbors and friends who need the message carried through the pages of the Bible Monitor. Send in a subscription for them. For only one dollar they will receive twenty-four issues. Your gift may prove to be the beginning of change in their lives.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

The Northern Lancaster County Congregation changed their name to Lititz Congregation.

On September 12th, Bro. Virgil Leatherman came here for a two weeks revival meeting. He brought to us many Spirit-filled messages. We were made to rejoice when one soul gave his heart to the Lord. On October 10th he was received into the Church at morning services and baptized right after church. We had good attendance throughout the meetings. We were glad to have Sister Leatherman with us throughout the meetings. May the Lord bless Bro. Leatherman as he labors in the Master's service.

The fall Love Feast was held in the Lititz Congregation, Saturday, October 17th. Services started at 2 o'clock with Love Feast in the evening. Ministers present were: Bro. Virgil Leatherman and our Elder James Kegerreis. Ninety-five surrounded the Lord's table with Bro. Leatherman officiating.

Since our last report we have received two by letter.

Sister Susanna B. Johns, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

We, at West Fulton, have enjoyed a two-week's revival meeting from October 3-17. Elder Hayes Reed from Modesto, California was our evangelist. They were well-attended; the church being filled to over capacity several times.

Elder Reed preached the Word with power. Although no one accepted Christ at this time, we feel that the good seed sown will bear fruit in the future. May the Lord bless Bro. Reed as he continues working for his Master.

In the latter part of August, a young man gave his heart to the Lord and was baptized. We pray that he will remain faithful.

Pray for the work at this place.

Sister Leola Beck, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Lovefeast services were held in the Bethel Congregation on October 31. Visiting ministers with us were: Elder Laverne Keeney, Elder Allen Eberly and Bro. Jack Snyder.

In the evening one hundred forty five surrounded the tables with Bro. Jack Snyder officiating.

Sister Fern Kegerreis, Cor.

At times it is better to keep your mouth shut and let people wonder if you're a fool, than to open it and remove all doubt.

The most valuable gift you can give is a good example.

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Paul R. Myers
Box 117
Greentown, Ohio 44630

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LIV DECEMBER 15, 1976 No. 24

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE LITTLE CHRIST CHILD

There was cheer at the inn, with windows alight,
  But no room to offer a Child that night --
The little Christ-child, so tender and small;
  They made him a couch in the cow's rough stall.
They covered him there in the manger's straw;
  Only the humble cattle saw.
Warmth in the village, cheer at the inn,
  And the straw in the manger scant and thin;
But angels sang on a hill near by,
  And a gold star rose in the winter sky;
His mother pillowed him on her arm,
  And the little Sleeper was glad and warm.
Hundreds and hundreds of years have gone,
  And still the angels are singing on;
Still the light of that lovely star
  Over the world - hills shines afar;
Still into hearts where love is bright
  The Christ-child enters on Christmas night!

-Mary Nelson Talbot

WITHOUT RESPECT OF PERSONS

God is no respecter of persons. The rich, the poor, the famous, the unknown, the powerful and the outcast are all naked before Him. He sees the hearts and minds of men. He knows what they truly are. His discernment of a man's character is not clouded by that man's wealth, position or intelligence. Men are prone to altering their views when influenced by the possessions or position of another. The God of Heaven is all-knowing so He can tell the poverty of the rich and the wealth of the poor. All are judged by the same standard by Him. There is no bribe that will influence Him to change His mind.

The circumstances surrounding the birth of Jesus demonstrates God's lack of respect for what men consider so important. If the details of His birth had been left to man's design it would have been very different. Instead of choosing the lowly Mary to be the mother of the Christ Child, man would have chosen a woman from among the first families of Jerusalem. Perhaps man would have directed that He should be full-grown at His entrance into this world instead of coming as a babe. He should have been born into the family of one of the leading Pharisees rather than to grow up among the sawdust and wood shavings of the carpenter shop of Joseph. It would have seemed more fitting for His nursery to have been in the palace of a ruling king rather than in a lowly stable heated only by the warmth of the animals' bodies. If men could have properly judged upon whom to bestow their respect, room would have been made in the inn or in a home in Bethlehem. But the wealthy and the prominent were given the best places.

THE BIBLE MONITOR DECEMBER 15, 1976

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MILTON COOK, Editor: Apt. 3, 1309 W. Lynne Ave., Anaheim, California 92802

RUDY COVER, Assistant Editor: Space 34, 2307 Oakdale Road, Modesto, California 95355

HOWARD J. SURBEY, Associate Editor: 749 W. King St., Littlestown, Pa. 17340

JACOB C. NESS, Associate Editor: 136 Homeland Road, York, Pa. 17403

The announcement of His birth was not made first to the High Priest, the Sanhedrin or to Herod. It was not saluted by the organized choir of the Temple. It was the lowly shepherds tending their sheep in the hillside pasture who first heard the angelic pronouncement. If the High Priest had been the first to hear, he would have had to consult his man-made rules and laws and check his political support before he could have gone to Bethlehem to see the Babe. The shepherds went immediately to offer their honest and awed praise to the Christ Child in His humble surroundings. They were among their own. The common people were the ones who heard Jesus gladly even from the day of His birth.

The one element of the story surrounding His birth that is above the ordinary and the common is that of the coming of the Wise Men. Here were men endowed with riches and education but without the shining star of God's mercy they would have lost their way. Their wisdom directed them errantly to Jerusalem to King Herod. Without the brilliant star placed by God above the house (not the stable) in Bethlehem where the infant (not baby) Jesus lived, they could have wandered far and near yet failed to find Him.

God truly ignored all that men thought to be important. He sent His Son not just to the rich, the powerful and the socially acceptable. The poor, the outcasts and the wretched were also the recipients of His gift of Love. The hearts of men were more important than their pocketbooks; their souls were of more value than their college degrees. Jesus' only home during His earthly ministry was the home of friends who cared and shared. Never was He offered lodging by the priests, the scribes or the Pharisees.

Knowing how God looks at man and his trinkets of wealth and power, we can very easily see the care we need to take so we will not be guilty of holding people up for respect only because of their more highly favored material position. James warns Christians about the danger of exalting the rich and the proud over the poor and unkempt. "But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors." James 2:9. This warning is to Christians so we would do well to consider our ways. We do not want sin to be laid to our charge. Yet how often are we guilty of holding one man in higher esteem than another just because he has money, holds an office or has a sparkling personality. How often are we guilty of looking down on man because he is unkempt, lives in a poorer section of town or is a member of a despised family or nationality.

We all came into this world naked. None of us will carry anything out when we depart from this world. All that we have and enjoy has been given to us by God so we have no right to be partial. We are all

alike. God sent His Son not to the rich and powerful and self-righteous but to the common people who realize their true condition. To realize and show the lack of partiality might be the best gift we can give this Christmas. It was God's gift on the first Christmas.

JUST A BABE IN A MANGER?

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." Luke 2:11-12. This announcement was made to the shepherds who were out in the field watching over their flocks. When the angel appeared, they were "sore afraid", but they were reassured by the announcement the angel made. They found everything just as they were told and they praised God for it.

The Babe lying in a manger -- an unusual place for a newborn -- was a sign to the shepherds that they had found the right child. This One truly was the promised Saviour. What a surprise to Mary and Joseph to have the shepherds come and tell them of the angel's announcement! Mary and Joseph had both been told that Mary's child would be a Holy Child, but yet they couldn't understand it all. To them, Jesus was just a babe in a manger, not all these wonderful things being said about Him.

So many people now seem to think of Jesus as a little baby, still in a manger, forgetting that this was only one of the signs that He is the Son of God, the Saviour that was promised many years ago. Jesus is much more to us than a Babe, much more than just a good man, as some like to think. If Jesus was just a good man, His teachings wouldn't be anymore vital to our spiritual welfare than any other man's. There have been many teachers and philosophers, but there's only one Jesus, who is our Saviour.

While here on hearth, Jesus accomplished all the purposes for which He came. After His childhood years, He spent about three years teaching, preaching, healing the sick, and expressing God's love to all mankind. Jesus loves us, too, and gave His life so that we could be saved. If we will accept what He did for us, Jesus will save us, and dwell in us. He is not physically present on earth at this time, but yet we can have fellowship with Him when His Spirit dwells within us.

The One, who was born in the presence of animals, is now our Shepherd. Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." John 10:11. Only a good shepherd moved by love and concern for his flock would give his life for the

sheep. David said, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." Psa. 23:11. As our shepherd, Jesus leads us as a shepherd leads his sheep. He does not drive us. Sheep respond to the shepherd's call and we should respond when Jesus calls. He wants us to willingly follow Him, day by day. If we will, Jesus will provide for every need that we have, just as a shepherd does for his sheep.

Jesus has done so much for us that He could not have done if He had been just an ordinary man. He came as a baby, grew up as we do and experienced all that we do, but don't think of Him as an ordinary person. Think of Him as He is! He is our Creator, for John 1:3 says "...without Him was not anything made that was made." He is our Savior, for He gave his life for us. He is our Mediator, the One who intercedes and seeks God's mercy for us. Jesus conquered death for us so that we can have life everlasting. No one but Jesus could do this for us, for no one else is acceptable to God.

The birth of Christ fulfilled every prophecy in detail. His life and the teaching He did, His death and resurrection fulfilled every prophecy about it and His second coming will also. But what about Christ now? What does He mean to you personally? Is He just the Babe in the manger, or a man who did alot of good deeds? Or is He what He should be to you, your Savior, the divine Son of God?

The shepherds believed the announcement about the Savior's birth and made haste to see Him. They couldn't get to Jesus fast enough. When you realize that a Savior has come, don't waste any time coming to Him. You must seek eternal life here on earth, if you want it and it begins when you accept Christ as your Savior and Lord. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." I. John 5:12.

Jesus truly makes us come alive from the heart out when we accept His life-giving, transforming power. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Cor. 5:17. He did this because He loves us; when we are touched by His love, we will not be the same. No ordinary person could do this for us.

If you have never thought seriously about why Jesus was born into this world or why He died on the Cross for us, now is the time to do so. "...for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." John 8:24b. There is only one Savior; we must believe in Him in order to be saved. We can't reach out and touch Jesus nor can we see Him physically, but there is a blessing when we believe anyhow. "...Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." John 20:29b. Will you believe now that the Holy Babe laid in the manger is truly the promised Savior?

Sister Eileen Broadwater
R. 1, Pioneer, Ohio 43554

LET THE HEATHEN DESTROY THE TREES

Imagine what you would think of the heathen - whether African, Indian, or Asian, - if every year they would destroy a beautiful forest of evergreens in celebration of their god. Wouldn't you feel sorry for such a poor, unlearned, ignorant people who were "groping in darkness"?

This year acres of trees will be cut down, as millions of Americans spend their money to bring them into their houses. They will spend many hours on trimming and lighting it, only to have to dispose of it after the "holidays". Many more hours will be spent selecting and wrapping gifts to pile underneath. People will come to their "wits end" to get all this done by Christmas Eve. Nerves will be taxed, tempers will blow up and burst into shouts at one another in expectation of having a great day in the name of Christ's birthday. Thus, our involvement with trees and things lead to undermining the foundation of some of the best gifts God has given us.

A friend, who was decorating their tree, explained how the trimmings had a Christian symbol. One trimming may have symbolized the Spirit, while another symbolized something else. This was a Christianized tree because the decorations were given symbolic Christian meanings.

What does God think of cutting down trees in festivity and attaching His name to the tree and trimmings? I find no commandment in the Scripture that asks us to cut down a tree in offering or festivity to a birthday, which we don't even know the date of. Ever since Adam, man has tried to use his own inventions to give God a little credit and respect. "We have turned every one to his own way." The Scribes and Pharisees added burdens unto the people that weren't in the Law. God didn't ask His people to cut down trees in December as an offering to Christ's birthday. This is not the way He wants to be honored. This clearly says trees are not a call from God. That Pharisee kind of burden is put on Christians by the traditions of the world system.

The Christ, we say came at Christmas, came to set us free from sin. He came to free and liberate us from the world system. Since I conclude the tree is not called for in the Scripture, I also conclude it is called for by the world system. This system wants you to buy and consume so they can roll up huge profits at your expense. Christ, who came to set us free from that system, can also set us free from the hustle and bustle of excessive spending and trees of vanity.

So we want to honor Christ as Christmas! How do we do it? If you want to honor a friend, you give him what he wants and needs. If you want to honor Christ, give Him what He wants - not what He doesn't

want. Since He doesn't ask for trees and invented symbols - don't attach them to His name. He doesn't lie when He gets things He doesn't want by saying it is "just what he always wanted."

He wants our obedience and dedication. He said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." John 14:15. Again, he said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:31-32. He continued, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36. To honor Christ, give Him a kind of loyality, commitment, dedication and obedience that will set you free and apart from the world system. One who gives Christ such an allegiance can experience a freedom and liberation that releases him from the rat race of worldly festivity. Since neither Christ nor the Bible call for the tree, I believe the Christian should let this vain celebration for the person who doesn't know Christ as Lord. God doesn't want our inventions of respect. He wants obedience and praise.

This Christmas let's honor Him by obeying and with symbols His Word calls for and by being set free from the unscriptural symbols the world calls for.

This Christmas I want to do important things and enjoy the best gifts God offers. I want to keep on serving, loving, and obeying Him. I want to enjoy the best gifts of life -- friendship, fellowship, love and appreciation for one another. Forget the tree. Focus the preparation and time on the gift of life, the gift of friends and relatives. Focus on enjoying these gifts, and on being a friend to others -- perhaps your own family. I'm identifying more with my parent's low keyed Christmas. No tree - but an open house and heart for their family and friends. One year it was "no gifts", but an offering for M.C.C. to help others. With so many people truly in need and so many valuable things to do, who has time to waste on a tree? My son wants to be held, wants his questions answered and help on his sixty-three piece puzzle. My daughter needs some of my time too. She is growing up and needs attention.

Let's take time for people and their needs. Share their joys and sorrows, their dreams and disappointments. That takes time, so much time it leaves no time to cut trees. That is such a priority and such an appreciated task that trees become vanity.

Love, longsuffering, meekness and gentleness would be some of the best gifts, parents could give their children. Yet during the trimming of the tree, parents will run out of gentleness and explode at the children they pretend to love. The hustle of trees and festivity is destructive to relationships within one's own family. Patience, meekness, and love make better gifts than all the trees the world

could destroy in the name of Christmas. By tne way, if you must have a tree, cut it down in February. You'll have more time then and it won't interfere with Christ's alleged birthday.

This Christmas, since Christ is not honored by our tree cutting, let those who don't know His peace destroy the trees. Let the Pharisees "strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." You get on with the important things of life like loving and caring for one another. Trees and trimmings are so short lived. The garbage truck will soon be burdened with trucking them off to decay or go to ashes. On the other hand, friendships and relationships can last a lifetime and stretch into eternity. Christmas -- what a time to nourish relationships with Christ and other people like parents, children, mates and neighbors. It could last forever. Let the heathen cut the trees -- you have a more noble thing to do.

Simon Schrock
4614 Holly Ave., Fairfax, Va. 22030

THE CHILDREN'S PAGE

SPIES SENT TO JERICHO

JOSHUA 2

How excited the children of Israel were! For forty years they had wandered around in the wilderness. Many had been babies or very young children when they left Egypt. Now they were grown men and women and had families of their own. God told them to cross over the River Jordan and enter the Promised Land. They were about to have farms of their own -- olives, grapes, figs, pomegranates -- food in abundance and houses to live in. Many didn't know what it was like to live in anything but a tent. Opportunity was theirs and soon they would start to live in an entirely different way.

But there were people living in this land that God promised to Israel. They had cities with high walls and fierce warriors. God said He would be with Israel and overcome the inhabitants of the land -- if they would only trust Him and obey His Word. Joshua sent two men to spy secretly the land they were about to enter -- even to the city of Jericho.

There was a woman who lived in a house on the great wall of Jericho. Her name was Rahab. The two men came to her house and were given a room to stay in. Someone told the king of Jericho that two men of the children of Israel had come to spy out the land. The king immediately sent men to arrest the spies, but when they came to Rahab, she said the spies had come to her but had left at dark

before the gate of the city was closed. Rahab didn't want the spies of Israel captured and she had a reason for it; so she said, "Pursue after them quickly for he shall overtake them."

While the king's men were trying to capture the spies, Rahab hid them in the attic of her house and put stalks of flax over them. Flax is used to make linen cloth. Rahab made cloth for clothing out of it. She told the spies that she had heard how God had delivered Israel through the Red Sea and how Israel had destroyed Og and Sihon, two mighty kings, on the other side of Jordan. Rahab said that the people of Jericho were afraid and their courage was gone. She believed in the God of Israel. She had treated the spies kindly and wanted them to promise to spare her father, mother, brothers and sisters from death when Israel would overcome Jericho.

So she let them down the wall of the city by a cord through the window of her house and they escaped. The spies of Israel told her to tie the same scarlet rope by which they escaped in the window and to gather her whole family in her house and they would be spared. The spies went to a mountain Rahab told them about and waited three days till the men who pursued them returned to Jericho. Then they went back to Israel.

Next time we will learn how Rahab and her family were saved. God always watches over those who believe and put their trust in Him. Do you trust God to take care of you?

Brother Rudy Cover

ANGELS

Angels are mentioned many times and in many ways in the scriptures. They are referred to as heavenly beings and ministering spirits and are made mention of as an innumerable company. They often are being used for God's service, His assistants and helpers, ministering to those whom God is dealing with.

Angels are invisible to the natural eye, but often appear in some personal form. Angels do not accept the worship of men.

The first mention of angels is when Hager fled from her mistress, Sarah, Abraham's wife. The angel found her in the wilderness by a fountain of water, the angel bid her return to her mistress and submit to her. Gen. 16:7, 9.

There appeared three men to Abraham in the Plain of Mamre, to announce to him that Sarah, even though she was past age, would conceive and bear a son. Gen. 18:10.

Two angels in the form of men came to rescue Lot as he sat in the gates of Sodom. They came to rescue Lot and his family from the

destruction that was coming on that city.

Jacob, though he fled from his brother Esau, had a wonderful experience as he lay down to sleep, using stones for a pillow. There he dreamed he saw a ladder reaching from earth to heaven and angels ascending and descending on it. The Lord stood above it, and said, "I am the Lord God of Abraham...and the God of Isaac."

The angel appeared to the wife of Manoah announcing, that though she was barren, she would bear a son and that "...no razor shall come on his head..." and not to drink wine or strong drink, "...for the child shall be a Nazarite...from the womb." Judges 13:2-5.

We could think of many more times when angels appeared to men to bring some important announcement. But, we find in the New Testament, that "...the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the virgin's name was Mary."

The angel saluted her by saying, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." The message the angel brought was, "...thou shalt conceive...and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name, Jesus." Mary said unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man." The angel answered, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee, shall be called the Son of God." And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Then the angel departed from her. Luke 1:26-38.

An angel also appeared to the shepherds as they watched their flocks by night and said, "...behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy... For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." And a multitude of heavenly hosts appeared praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:10-14.

Philip was preaching in Samaria when the angel of the Lord told him to go toward the south unto the way that goes from Jerusalem to Gaza. Philip obeyed and went. There he met a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority, returning from Jerusalem where he had worshipped. As he rode along in his chariot he read from the prophet Esaias. The spirit said, "Go ... join thyself to this chariot." Philip ran and as he approached the chariot, he asked, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" "How can I, except some man should guide me?" As they rode along the eunuch said, "Here is water", and asked to be baptized. Acts 8:26-37.

We can read how the Apostle Peter was rescued from the hand of

Herod, because the Church was praying for him. Peter was sleeping between two soldiers bound with two chains with the keepers at the door. But the angel of the Lord came upon him and a light shined in the prison. He smote Peter on the side and raised him up saying, "Arise up quickly," and the chains fell off from his hands. "Gird thyself (or put your clothes on) and follow me." Peter thought it was all a vision, but after they went through the prison doors and the gate opened of its own accord, and as Peter became awake, he knew it was true, what the angel had done. Then the angel departed.

The Apostle Paul, while on his voyage to Rome, as a prisoner aboard the ship, was in great danger of the storm. But the Apostle Paul, even though he was in custody of the centurion said, "...be of good cheer, ...for there stood by me this night, the angel of God...whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee."

I believe there are angels watching over all of God's people.

Brother Clarence Gehr
Dallas Center, Iowa 50063

A PRODIGAL SON

As we look out on this sinful world and see so many people, who know not their Savior, it brings to mind the parable of the prodigal son, as told in Luke 15:11-32.

As we read this story, we think of the Father, as our Lord and Savior to whom all our substance belongs. As the son, we ask for our portion and being the kind, loving Father that He is, He gives us our inheritance. Then what do we do with it?

Are we all prodigal sons? What does the word PRODIGAL mean? We find that Webster says, "It is to be exceedingly wasteful, extremely generous, a spendthrift." Are we guilty of any of these? What are we doing with the talents our Savior has given us?

Take the talent of time, do we spend it as we should? Do we spend it in riotous living? So many people never stop to think of time as being a talent. God has given us the talent of time, also the talent of wisdom to use this time wisely. The people, who waste time, never stop to think where all their time is coming from. They never think about how long it will last, they only care about wasting it. They spend a little here and a little there but never do any good with it. What do we do with the talent of life that our Savior has given to us? Are we spending it in service of the Lord? If not we are being exceedingly wasteful with this talent. What of the talent of helping others? Are we being spendthrifts with this talent, or do we put it to good use?

How can a person ask his Heavenly Father for his portion of that beautiful Paradise, then squander it here in this old world of sin? Why let that old devil, Satan, have a taste of glory? He had a chance to a home in that Glory Land but turned it down, so why should we give him our share?

After we receive an inheritance from our Lord, (this is the beginning of our spiritual life), we must not be prodigal with this inheritance, for if we are, we are going back into the world serving Satan again. This is the same as going into a far, distant country, for the land of Paradise and the land of Satan are very distant from each other. After we spend our talents, the old devil will let us starve. Then we think of the Land of our Father and all the good things we could have there. So we desire to go back to serving Him. Oh! if only He will accept us after we have been so ungrateful to Him. After we have given our inheritance to Satan, will our Father accept us back and let us work for Him so that we might win a place in that Paradise?

At the return of the prodigal, we see someone, with their head hanging low in shame, approaching the Father. As we get near, our Father sees us and being a Father of love, He does forgive us. The love of the Father is so great, He says, "let us celebrate, the lost is found, the lost soul has come home."

Let us not be prodigal with the inheritance our Heavenly Father gives us. Let us use our talents wisely and profitably for the good of our souls and lift the name of the Master in praise and glory. Let us show the world and old Satan that we are going to use our talents wisely, so when we are called to account, we can say our ten talents have grown to twenty. Then our Father can say, "come to the feast." "Thou hast been faithful over a few things ...enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

In Christian love,
Brother Orvis Smith

There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Don't substitute.

Today is a good time to stop grumbling. It does not pay, cannot help and is as contagious as smallpox. Praise loudly; blame softly.

WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS?

'Twas not the angels' message
That gave the Christmas thought;
Nor yet the gold and incense
Which the Wise Men brought.

'Twas not the star which led them
Upon their unknown way;
It was the birth of Jesus
That makes the Christmas day!

So it is not the presents
That make our Christmas day;
'Tis not what we receive that counts,
But what we give away.

The joy of loving service
Makes all the day seem bright;
The thought of others' pleasure
With self put out of sight.

Oh, never mourn that Christmas
Comes only once a year,
Because it is our giving
Which brings the Christmas cheer.

Then keep the Christmas spirit
Within our hearts alway,
And through the year thus make it,
A Christmas every day!

- Annie Johnson Flint
Selected by Brother Willard Beam

The right temperature at home is maintained by warm hearts, not by hot heads.

As disease germs perish in the sunshine, so do evil works perish under the light of the gospel.

OBITUARY

NAOMI HARTZ

Sister Naomi Rebecca Hartz entered into Eternal Rest on Tuesday, October 26, 1976, at the age of 73 years, 3 months, and 26 days, after about one month of ill health. Up until that time she was able to live in her own home and enjoyed having the prayer meeting in her home when her turn came.

She was born June 30, 1903, and was the daughter of David and Annie (Batdorf) Horst. She was a life long resident of Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. She taught school in the Palmyra Area Schols for thirty-one years. Her husband Paul A. Hartz, Sr. died in 1968.

She became a member of the Palmyra Church of the Brethren in 1916. In 1971 she united with the Dunkard Brethren Church. She held her membership in the Mechanicsburg district and was still able to attend the services at the Campbelltown house, near her home, until just a short time before her passing.

Three times, on the eve of her departure, she exclaimed during her rousing moments, "Oh, He is so precious!"

A son, Paul A. Hartz, Jr., Palmyra; two sisters, Mrs. Annabel Herr and Mrs. Edna Vansant, both of Palmyra; and a brother Frank D. Horst, of Palmyra are among her survivors.

Services were held at the Rothermel Funeral Home, Palmyra, Pennsylvania on October 30, 1976. Bro. John L. Peffer and Elder Frank D. Shaffer officiated. The funeral text was Matthew 24:44, "Therefore be ye also ready; for in such an hour as ye think not, the Son of man cometh." Hymns "The Last Mile of the Way", "Face to Face", and "Just Inside the Eastern Gate" were sung. The Brethren reminded us that this time will come for all of us and we must needs be ready!

Burial was in the family plot in Gravel Hill Cemetery, Palmyra, Pennsylvania.

THANK YOU

We want to take this opportunity to thank the Children of God for their prayers, cards, warm hand clasps, and comforting words and deeds expressed to us at a time when we so sorely needed such moral and spiritual support - during the sickness and passing of our dear mother, Naomi R. Hartz.

Also, our special thanks to the nurses, aids and to Bro. Glenn Zeigler, superintendent of the Mt. Hope Home, who went beyond the call of duty to give their kindly, professional care when the family was no longer able to care for her.

May God bless you, each one.

Mary and Paul Hartz

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

If any congregation needs more Sunday School leaflets, write to Rudy Cover, 2307 Oakdale Rd., Space 34, Modesto, California 95355. We still have a few left.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

We enjoyed another revival meeting the first two weeks of August. Our evangelist, Bro. Paul Hartz, gave us many challenging and inspiring messages. We were happy his wife could be with us also. May the Lord bless and guide them in the Lord's work.

On the first Sunday of November, we experienced the blessings of another Lovefeast and messages of the day. The visiting ministers were: Joshua Rice, Laverne Keeney, Frank Shaffer, Paul Hartz, Virgil Leatherman, John Peffer, Jack Snyder, and James Kegerreis. In the evening, Elder Frank Shaffer officiated. We do enjoy the fellowship with those of like precious faith.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

THANK YOU

We wish to express our sincere thanks for the many cards, letters, phone calls, gifts, expressions of sympathy and kindness; and above all the many prayers offered during the illness and passing of my beloved husband and our dear father, Bro. Harry E. Sweitzer.

It means so much to know that so many remember us at the throne of grace. We know we have a prayer-hearing and prayer-answering Saviour.

May the Lord richly bless each one.

Sister Helen Sweitzer and family

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY

Jan. 2 — Paul Preaches the Gospel. Gal. 1:1-24.
Jan. 9 — Justified by Faith in Christ. Gal. 2:1-21.
Jan. 16 — The Law, a Schoolmaster. Gal. 3:1-29.
Jan. 23 — The Two Covenants. Gal. 4:1-31.
Jan. 30 — Living and Walking in the Spirit. Gal. 5:1-26.

QUESTIONS:

(1) What was the purpose of Jesus in giving Himself for our sins? Gal. 1:4.
(2) From whom did Paul receive the Gospel? Gal. 1:12.
(3) How are we justified by faith in Christ? Gal. 2:16.
(4) For what reason was the Law given? Gal. 3:19.
(5) If the old Law or Covenant was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, what was the new covenant for? Gal. 4:5-7.
(6) How can we keep from lusting after the flesh? Gal. 5:16.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FOR JANUARY, 1977
CONDEMNATION

Memory Verse Matthew 13:52
Then said he unto them, Therefore every scribe which is instructed unto the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new and old.
Sat. 1-Isaiah 65:1-25
Memory Verse, Isaiah 54:17
No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.
Sun. 2-Proverbs 12:1-28
Mon. 3-Proverbs 17:1-28
Tues. 4-Isaiah 50:1-11
Wed. 5-Isaiah 54:1-17
Thur. 6-Amos 2:1-16
Fri. 7-Matt. 12:1-21
Sat. 8-Matt. 12:22-50
Memory Verse, Matthew 12:37
For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.
Sun. 9-Matt. 20:1-28
Mon. 10-Matt. 27:1-31
Tues. 11-Mark 10:32-52
Wed. 12-Mark 14:43-72
Thur. 13-Luke 6:27-49
Fri. 14-Luke 11:1-32
Sat. 15-Luke 23:32-56
Memory Verse, Matt. 20:18
Behold, we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and unto the scribes, and they shall condemn him to death.
Sun. 16-Luke 24:1-27
Mon. 17-John 3:1-21
Tues. 18-John 5:1-29
Wed. 19-John 8:1-25
Thur. 20-Acts 13:17-41
Fri. 21-Rom. 2:1-29
Sat. 22-Rom. 5:1-21
Memory Verse, Luke 6:37
Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
Sun. 23-Rom. 8:1-18
Mon. 24-Rom. 8:19-39
Tues. 25-Rom. 14:1-23
Wed. 26-1 Cor. 11:17-34
Thur. 27-2 Cor. 3:1-18
Fri. 28-2 Cor. 7:1-16
Sat. 29-1 Tim. 3:1-16
Memory Verse, John 3:18, 19
He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
Sun. 30-Tit. 2:1-15
Mon. 31-Tit. 3:1-15
Memory Verse, Rom. 2:1
Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things.
Rom. 14:22
Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.